ESL Benchmarks Summary

	Level 1 Beginning	Level 2 Developing	Level 3 Expanding	Level 4 Bridging	Level 5 Extending
Listening	Needs visuals, gestures and demonstrations to understand familiar social and classroom routines. Understands:	Needs visuals to understand familiar topics and to learn new words and concepts. Understands:	Understands the main ideas and some details of unfamiliar topics. Understands: • more subject-specific words • academic words • longer, detailed sentences • slang • open-ended questions beginning with "Why" or "How," on familiar topics.	Understands specific details of unfamiliar topics. Understands: a range of descriptive, subject-specific, academic words synonyms and antonyms complex sentences common idioms open-ended questions on new topics.	Understands academic explanations. Understands: a broad range of adjectives and adverbs and words with multiple meanings a variety of sentence structures humour, idioms and cultural references hypothetical questions, such as: "What if?" "If then why?"
Speaking	Communicates with friends and teachers socially and in the classroom, with support and prompts. Uses: familiar words short phrases and patterned sentences familiar expressions and gestures. Speaks with errors and omissions.	Communicates with friends and teachers in social and classroom situations. Uses:	Participates in class discussions, shares ideas, and asks and answers questions. Uses: • more descriptive and subject-specific words related to curricular content • detailed sentences • expressions and slang appropriate to context. Speaks with some word usage errors.	Interacts with peers and teachers, makes connections and asks questions to gather more information. Uses: • a range of vocabulary • longer detailed sentences with clauses • speech appropriate for informal and formal situations. Speaks with occasional errors.	Engages in conversations by elaborating, restating commenting, and asking and answering questions. Uses: • a broad range of vocabulary • a variety of sentence structures • culturally based idioms appropriately. Speaks with increasing accuracy.

ESL Benchmarks Summary

Grades 4–6 1/2

ESL Benchmarks Summary

	Level 1 Beginning	Level 2 Developing	Level 3 Expanding	Level 4 Bridging	Level 5 Extending
Reading	Understands sight words and familiar words. Decodes sight words. Understands patterned sentences, using visuals. Reads both fiction and nonfiction texts. Reads word by word.	Understands some descriptive and subject-specific words. Decodes word families and consonant blends. Uses visuals, context and shared experiences to understand familiar text. Comprehends the literal meaning of texts. Reads with some phrasing.	Understands more descriptive, subject-specific and academic words. Decodes consonant clusters. Uses strategies, such as rereading, predicting and self-correcting, to understand the main idea of a text. Comprehends the purpose of different genres of text. Reads with some expression.	Understands a range of synonyms, antonyms and words with multiple meanings. Decodes root words and affixes. Uses strategies, such as word analysis, contextual clues and self-monitoring, to understand the main idea and details of a text. Comprehends figurative language. Reads with expression, attends to punctuation and makes meaningful substitutions.	Understands a broad range of synonyms, antonyms and words with multiple meanings. Decodes multisyllabic words. Applies a range of strategies, such as inferencing, revising thoughts and concluding, to understand unfamiliar text. Comprehends cultural references. Reads with expression and self-corrects.
Writing	Uses familiar words and present tense when writing original text. Labels pictures, copies sentences and fills in blanks, with support. Edits for spelling of sight words. Writes with errors and omissions.	Creates simple detailed sentences, using familiar, descriptive and academic words. Writes to complete patterned sentences and graphic organizers, with support. Edits for basic spelling, capitals at the beginning of sentences and periods at the end. Writes with usage errors.	Creates simple paragraphs, using adjectives and adverbs. Uses models and sentence frames to develop writing. Edits for spelling, basic punctuation and simple tenses. Writes with more control of word order, plurals and tenses.	Creates detailed paragraphs, using a range of vocabulary. Uses templates and graphic organizers, with minimal support. Edits for regular and irregular spelling, punctuation and a variety of tenses. Writes with more control of subject-verb agreement.	Creates cohesive, well-developed text with supporting detail, using a broad range of vocabulary and cohesive devices. Uses writing tools as needed and demonstrates a developing sense of style. Edits for sequence of ideas and for subject-verb agreement. Writes with increasing accuracy.