ESL Benchmarks Summary

Kindergarten

	Level 1 Beginning	Level 2 Developing	Level 3 Expanding	Level 4 Bridging	Level 5 Extending
Listening	Understands basic words in simple phrases, with gestures and visual support. May observe and copy others to follow classroom routines. Understands yes/no questions.	Understands familiar words and phrases, with visual support. Listens for key words and uses visual supports to engage in classroom routines. Understands either/or questions.	Understands describing words in simple sentences, with visual support. Uses context to predict the meaning of new words in order to engage in classroom discussions. Understands questions beginning with "What," "When," "Who" and "Where."	Understands words that compare and classify objects in detailed sentences. Questions and uses visual cues and known expressions to clarify understanding. Understands open- ended questions beginning with "Why" and "How."	Understands words used for explaining, retelling, connecting and sequencing in complex sentences. Uses a variety of strategies to confirm understanding. Understands hypothetical questions, such as: "What if?" and "If then what ?"
Speaking	Uses one or two words and gestures to express immediate needs. Speaks using memorized phrases. Uses familiar greetings. Participates in familiar routines, with support.	Uses some words to answer simple questions and participate in classroom routines. Speaks using short phrases. Uses common courtesy phrases and expresses preferences, agreement and disagreement. Repeats words and phrases to participate in familiar routines.	Uses more words to answer questions, share ideas and interact with others. Speaks using simple sentences. Uses common courtesy expressions to compliment, apologize, show appreciation and interact with peers and adults. Uses expressions heard from others to interact with peers and adults.	Uses a range of words to describe, explain and retell. Manipulates word order in positive and negative sentences. Uses phrasal verbs, such as "made up" and "figure out," to explain, describe and compare. Asks and answers questions to participate in conversations with peers and adults.	Uses a variety of words to compare and connect and sequence ideas. Adds detail to positive and negative sentences. Uses appropriate register (formal/informal) to show humour and interact with peers and adults. Communicates effectively in most social and school tasks.