

Reading IEP Goals — Preschool & Pre-K

19 measurable goals written to IDEA standards. Replace [student] and [date]; adjust criteria to the student's baseline.

At this level there is no oral reading rate to target yet. Everything here is a precursor skill: print awareness, phonological awareness, and vocabulary. Measure during play and story time, not seated testing — a 4-year-old's data comes from natural routines or it is not real data.

PRINT AWARENESS

1.	By [date], [student] will hold a book right side up and turn pages one at a time from front to back in 4 of 5 observed opportunities, as measured by teacher observation.
2.	By [date], [student] will point to the words (not the pictures) when asked "where do I read?" in 4 of 5 opportunities.
3.	By [date], [student] will identify the front cover, back cover, and title of a familiar book with 80% accuracy across 4 of 5 trials.
4.	By [date], [student] will track print left to right and top to bottom with an adult modelling, in 4 of 5 shared reading sessions.

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

5.	By [date], [student] will identify whether two spoken words rhyme with 80% accuracy across 4 of 5 trials.
6.	By [date], [student] will produce a rhyming word for a given spoken word in 3 of 4 opportunities.
7.	By [date], [student] will clap the syllables in a 2-syllable spoken word with 80% accuracy across 4 of 5 trials.
8.	By [date], [student] will identify the beginning sound of a spoken word with 75% accuracy across 4 of 5 trials.
9.	By [date], [student] will blend two spoken syllables into a whole word with 80% accuracy in 4 of 5 opportunities.

LETTER KNOWLEDGE

10.	By [date], [student] will identify 10 uppercase letters by name with 80% accuracy across 4 of 5 trials.
11.	By [date], [student] will identify the letters in their own first name with 90% accuracy across 4 of 5 trials.
12.	By [date], [student] will produce the sound for 5 taught consonants with 80% accuracy across 4 of 5 trials.
13.	By [date], [student] will match an uppercase letter to its lowercase partner for 8 taught letters with 80% accuracy.

LISTENING COMPREHENSION & VOCABULARY

14.	By [date], [student] will answer a literal "who" or "what" question about a story read aloud, using words, signs, or an AAC device, in 4 of 5 opportunities.
15.	By [date], [student] will retell one event from a familiar story with picture support in 3 of 4 opportunities.
16.	By [date], [student] will point to a named object from a field of three with 85% accuracy across 4 of 5 trials.
17.	By [date], [student] will use 10 new vocabulary words from shared reading spontaneously during play, as measured by teacher observation over 2 weeks.
18.	By [date], [student] will attend to a shared reading activity for 5 consecutive minutes with no more than 1 redirect in 4 of 5 sessions.
19.	By [date], [student] will predict what happens next in a familiar story with 75% accuracy in 3 of 4 opportunities.

Using These Reading Goals at Preschool & Pre-K

Measure during routines, not testing

A preschooler's reading data comes from circle time, book corner, and play. If a goal can only be measured by sitting the child at a table with flashcards, it is probably the wrong goal for this age.

Accept every communication mode

Pointing, signing, and AAC all count as answering. A child who does not speak can absolutely demonstrate listening comprehension — writing the goal so only speech counts sets them up to fail on paper while succeeding in reality.

Phonological awareness predicts later reading

Of everything on this page, rhyming, syllable clapping, and beginning sounds are the strongest predictors of whether this child will read on time. If you can only target two areas, target these.

Do not set fluency goals yet

There is no correct-words-per-minute target at this age. A preschool IEP with a reading rate goal is a copy-paste error from an older template.

Adjust the number of letters, sounds, and words to what the child already knows. A goal of 10 letters is a stretch for one child and already mastered for another — the number is the part you personalise.

Tired of rebuilding these forms every year?

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