

Ready to Homeschool — Six Month Countdown

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WEEK 15: LANGUAGE ARTS

Language	Receptive	Expressive
Oral/Aural	LISTENING	SPEAKING
Written Code	READING	WRITING

Language Arts encompasses everything in the EXPRESSIVE category:

- Handwriting (or typing)
- Spelling
- Vocabulary and Root Words (Latin and Greek) with prefixes and suffixes
- Capitalization and punctuation
- Grammar (parts of speech, usage, verb tenses)
- Diagramming sentences
- Sentence-writing (and gradually paragraphs and papers)
- Organization and logic (Good writing is good thinking)
- Making speeches (or acting out a play, or presenting poetry)
- Outlining
- Conversation and communicating with others informally (letters, emails, texts)
- Research (and avoiding plagiarism)
- Styles of citation
- Writing styles: Persuasive, Narrative, Expository, Descriptive.
- Editing and proofreading and revising
- Using visual aids and charts to help communicate clearly
(PowerPoint, lapbooks, presentation boards)

Prepare throughout the preschool years — good writing/drawing habits

Encourage writing their name, drawing pictures, and LISTEN when they tell you stories or explain their drawings. This is their expressive language!!

Model correct grammar in your own speech.

Goals in the early elementary years:

Handwriting (print or cursive, your choice)

Allow them to dictate their stories or answers

Copywork is helpful at this stage (spelling and grammar are correctly modeled)

Turn stories into plays — encourage improvisation

Later elementary/middle school years

Keyword outlines (explained well by Institute for Excellence in Writing)

Spelling, Vocabulary with root words and prefixes and suffixes

Beginning grammar, usage, more advanced sentence and paragraph structure

Experience with all four writing styles AND creative writing, including poetry

High School/College years

Formal grammar, diagramming sentences, ideally before learning a 2nd language

Research, citation, longer writing assignments

Typing

For Week 19, we will be discussing *You CAN Teach Your Child Successfully* by Ruth Beechick.

This is a classic homeschooling “how-to” book with several editions available. Use this link to purchase the book, and I will benefit as an Amazon affiliate: <https://amzn.to/3KIO4Am>

Resources:

Barton Reading

A set of 10 manuals developed by Susan Barton (based on Orton-Gillingham) with letter tiles that a parent (with training) can use to teach children to read. Very intense, expensive, but SUCCESSFUL. This is still on the list for Language Arts, because it does an excellent job of teaching root words, prefixes, suffixes, and spelling rules.

<https://bartonreading.com/>

A Reason for Handwriting by Concerned Communications

Several levels available — practice writing Scripture verses, as you teach kids to improve their handwriting.

<https://homeschool.areasonfor.com/pages/homeschool>

Pentime by Pentime Publishers

Several levels available — each workbook in the upper elementary grades has a slightly different focus (like the 50 states in Grade 4, or plants and animals). Encourages independence!

<https://www.rainbowresource.com/category/2002/Pentime-Handwriting-Series.html>

Spelling Power by Beverly L. Adams-Gordon

This manual is quite thorough and detailed, and is theoretically all you need to teach spelling at any level. The placement tests guide you to the right level for your child to begin, and the lists provided are meant to be mastered in less than 15 minutes per day, at the student's own pace. Look for related record books at each level that make the daily work more efficient.

<https://amzn.to/41gwr02>

(Purchasing from the link above will benefit me as an Amazon affiliate)

English from the Roots Up by Joegil K. Lundquist

There are two volumes, start with Volume #1. Buy lots of index cards and a red and green permanent marker, OR splurge on the supplemental card set so you don't have to make your own. Each book features 100 root words (some Latin, some Greek) that still appear in our English language today.

<https://amzn.to/3zKtjOz>

(Purchasing from the link above will benefit me as an Amazon affiliate)

Touch-Type Read and Spell (TTRS)

An online subscription that covers typing, reading, and spelling.

<https://www.readandspell.com/us/for-homeschoolers>

Learning Language Arts Through Literature

This is a curriculum set (Grades 1-12) in which each volume (for Grades 3 and up) offers weekly lessons based on a passage of literature. The workbooks cover vocabulary, spelling, basic grammar and parts of speech, capitalization, punctuation, and usage.

https://www.common sensepress.com/store/c2/Learning_Language_Arts_Through_Literature.html

Easy Grammar (and Daily Grams) by Wanda C. Phillips

I LOVE Dr. Phillips' approach for teaching grammar. In every level of Easy Grammar workbook, she teaches students to identify prepositions and then cross off prepositional phrases BEFORE attempting to identify the subject and predicate. This makes so much sense!! The workbooks are long and intense, and one workbook could probably last two years, if you want it to. The Daily Grams are for review — keeping grammar concepts fresh in the minds of older kids in bite-size portions.

https://www.easygrammar.com/store/c1/Featured_Products.html

Analytical Grammar by Robin Finley and Erin Karl

(now sold by Demme Learning — I have not tried the new version)

I used the original series for my high schoolers to learn grammar as well as diagramming sentences. It is quite intense but I do recommend that any student planning to learn a second language tackle this course to understand the English language first. The Teaching DVD's are very helpful.

<https://analyticalgrammar.com/>

If You're Trying to Teach Kids to Write, You've Gotta Have This Book!

by Marjorie Frank and Judy Howard

I don't think I read this book all the way through, but I did appreciate the MANY suggestions for writing assignments that were not reports. A used copy is just as good as new.

Language Lessons for.... By Sandi Queen

A colorful workbook for every age/stage. Each one contains 180 brief lessons that touch on developing language skills, in a Charlotte Mason style. Your child will probably not achieve mastery using this series, but they will be inspired and introduced to a wide variety of skills.

<https://www.queenhomeschool.com/categories/language-arts/language-lessons/>

Draw Write Now (boxed set of 8) by Marie Hablitzel and Kim Stitzer

This set gives step-by-step drawing instructions PLUS suggested copywork for elementary students covering a variety of topics. It's an easy addition to your nature, geography, or Early American History lessons. Invest in good drawing paper and colored pencils to encourage a quality final product.

Ordering through the following link will benefit me as an Amazon Associate.

<https://amzn.to/3Up26Kx>

Miller Pads and Paper (selling blank books for kids to write in)

Check out their “Large Bare Book-Picture Story” item which pairs perfectly with the Draw Write Now set above, or buy some “blank books” to use as journals. Their blank “Comic Books” might entice a struggling writer. They also sell curriculum. I always have a large wish list after browsing. :-)

<https://millerpadsandpaper.com/>

Institute for Excellence in Writing, featuring Andrew Pudewa

I believe this company started as Andrew Pudewa's attempt to teach everyone else how to teach writing. He had a 12-hour seminar on DVD called “Teaching Writing: Structure and Style” for teachers and parents. Eventually, they rolled out many other products that featured Andrew doing the teaching himself (DVD or streaming). There are stand-alone workbooks to teach writing and grammar and spelling. If you are interested in anything from this company, I highly recommend that you thoroughly explore all that the company has to offer, and their philosophy on how to teach kids models for writing different kinds of paragraphs. The emphasis is on guiding kids through the writing process, from brainstorming, to outlining, to organizing topics, to rough drafts, to polished papers. This is truly a top-of-the-line company, and worth the money, but don't push your kids into advanced writing too early.

<https://iew.com/intro-iew>

Dinah Zike (THE name in Graphic Organizers and Foldables)

Often times it helps when taking notes, or when brainstorming during a pre-writing process, to use a Graphic Organizer — which is just a fancy educational word for a diagram or chart. It's a way to visually organize ideas BEFORE the actual writing process, whether the answer is a sentence, paragraph, or paper.

Only you will know if this is likely to thrill or annoy your child. :-)

<https://dinah.com/graphic-organizers-and-foldables/>

[You can also try a google search for whatever concept you are learning plus the words “Graphic Organizer” for pre-printed resources on the internet... some free, some for sale.]