

WORD CHOICE

Beginner	Borrower	Experimenter	Meaning Maker	Experienced Writer
☐ Scribbles. ☐ Creates letter "shapes." ☐ Uses favorite words in dictation.	☐ Borrows recognizable letter shapes from environment. ☐ Labels pictures. ☐ Uses titles on text. ☐ Creates letter strings that contain one- or two- letter words: lk (like), dg (dog), hs (house), m (my).	☐ Writes easy-to-read letters/numbers. ☐ Writes words with consonant sounds and some vowels. ☐ Writes decodable words/sentences ☐ Uses many simple, familiar words. ☐ Uses sight words frequently. ☐ Has personal bank of favorite words. ☐ Enjoys adding new words to text. ☐ Adds new words to personal dictionary. ☐ Repeats some words.	☐ Writes easy-to-read words. ☐ Writes with variety – dares to try new, less familiar words. ☐ Loves descriptive words and phrases. ☐ Uses some strong verbs. ☐ Uses words to create images or add clarity, detail. ☐ Keeps growing personal dictionary of meaningful words. ☐ Selects some "just right" words to express meaning. ☐ Usually avoids repetition.	☐ Uses vivid, expressive language. ☐ Writes with vocabulary that may extend well beyond spelling ability. ☐ Sometimes uses striking unexpected phrases: <i>"I felt proud swan who lost its feathers."</i> ☐ Uses many strong verbs. ☐ Keeps extensive personal dictionary. ☐ Repeats words only for emphasis/effect. ☐ Occasionally changes (revises) words to reflect preference.