Little Saints
Language Development

1. **Develop memorization skills**
   A. Memorize and recite independently a simple nursery rhyme, poem, or song

2. **Listen to nursery rhymes, poems, fingerplays and songs and respond with appropriate gestures**
   A. Interpret and act out through pantomime a nursery rhyme, poem or fingerplay, using one’s own gestures and movements (as compared to those which have been previously demonstrated and taught)

3. **Develop a sense of rhyme**
   A. Using familiar rhymes, poems or songs, finish a recitation that has been begun with the correct rhyming word
   B. Using familiar rhymes, poems or songs, indicate several possible rhyming word choices, other than those contained in the actual rhyme, to finish the recitation (nonsense words and meanings are acceptable)

Note: The rhymes noted below represent a core selection for young children.

- A Hunting We Will Go
- Bobby Shafto
- Doctor Foster
- Hickey, Pickey, My Black Hen
- Once I Saw a Little Bird
- One Misty, Moisty Morning
- Pease Porridge Hot
- Polly Put the Kettle On
- Rain, Rain Go Away
- Ring Around the Rosey
- The Old Woman Must Stand at the Tub, Tub, Tub
- This is the Way the Ladies Ride
- To Market, To Market
- Two Little Blackbirds

- Bat, Bat
- Diddle, Diddle Dumpling, My Son John
- Lucy Locket
- One for the Money
- Pat-a-Cake
- Peter, Peter Pumpkin Eater
- Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat
- Ride a Cock Horse
- Rock-a-bye, Baby
- There was a Crooked Man
- This Little Piggy Went to Market
- Tom, Tom the Piper’s Son
- Wee Willie Winkie

In addition to the Mother Goose rhymes listed above, young children should have many other opportunities to listen to poetry, old and new. The selected poems particularly lend themselves to pantomime and/or rhyming activities:

- An Old Person From Ware (Edward Lear)
- Higglety, Pigglety, Pop! (Samuel Goodrich)
- January (Maurice Sendak)
- Raindrops (Aileen Fischer)
- The Pancake (Christine Rossetti)
- There Was a Fat Pig (Arnold Lobel)

- At the Seaside (Robert Lois Stevenson)
- Jack-o-Lantern (Aileen Fisher)
- Jump or Jiggle (Evelyn Beyer)
- Singing Time (Rose Fyleman)
- The Worm (Ralph Bergengren)

The following titles represent a core of traditional songs and fingerplays for young children:

- A Tisket, A Tasket
- Bingo
- Do Your Ears Hang Low?
- Eensy, Weensy Spider
- Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed
- Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes
- Hush Little Baby
- If You’re Happy and You Know It
- John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt
- Lazy Mary
- Oats, Peas, Beans and Barley Grow
- Oh, Do You Know the Muffin Man?
- Old MacDonald
- Open, Shut Them
- Row, Row, Row Your Boat
- Teddy Bear Picnic
- The Wheels on the Bus
- Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar?
- Your Are My Sunshine

- Are You Sleeping?
- Blue-Tail Fly (Jimmie Crack Corn0
- Did You Ever See a Lassie?
- Five Little Ducks That I Once Knew
- Happy Birthday to You
- Here is the Beehive
- I Know an Old Lady
- I’m a Little Teapot
- Kookaburra
- Looby Loo
- Oh, Dear What Can the Matter Be?
- Oh, Where, Oh Where, Has My Little Dog Gone?
- One Potato, Two Potato
- Pop Goes the Weasel
- Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, Turn Around
- Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star
- Where is Thumbkin?
- Yankee Doodle

Other:

Pledge of Allegiance
Storybook Reading & Storytelling

1. **Listen to stories read aloud**
   A. Attend and listen to picture books with storylines (30 minutes), as well as books of other genres, such as informational books (15 minutes)
   B. Attend and listen to books with minimal or no illustrations during a 15 minute reading

2. **Develop a notion of “story schema”**
   A. Retell a story that has been read aloud: include character(s), setting (time, place), the plot (central idea) of the story, the sequential events and an ending
   B. Sequence 5 illustrations of events from a story
   C. Predict events in a story, i.e., what will happen next?
   D. Provide a story ending consistent with other given story events
   E. “Read”/tell a story based on the illustrations of a book with text that has not been read aloud previously
   F. Make up and tell a story.

3. **Demonstrate an awareness of book and print (written language) organization**
   A. Point to:
      - The title of a book
      - The top, bottom or middle of a page
      - The beginning of the book (first page)
      - Where to start reading a book (first word on the first page)
      - The order that words are read on a page (left to right, line to line)
      - The end of the book (last page)
      - A word
      - A letter
   B. Using cover and illustration cues, locate those books in a collection of books that pertain to a general topic or might answer a question
   C. Point to words that begin with the same letter as own name
Little Saints
Emerging Literacy Skills in Reading & Writing

1. Develop an awareness of written matter/print in everyday surroundings and its many uses
   A. Dictate a simple letter, invitation or thank you note
   B. Use a simplified schedule of daily activities, depicted in words and pictures
      • Example of a simple schedule: photos of children engaged in daily activities (opening exercises, center time, snack time, etc.) arranged and listed in order on a bulletin board
   C. Use a simplified telephone listing, depicted in words and pictures
   D. Depict and represent “in writing”: people, objects, events or activities, derived from his or her own experience or imagination
      • A variety of methods may be used for “written expression,” including the child’s own drawings, other pictures, photos, rebuses, timelines, charts, invented spelling, etc.
   E. Dictate a description to accompany one’s own drawings of people, objects, events or activities, based on his or her own experience or imagination
   F. Follow a recipe depicted in words and pictures
   G. Assemble a simple object or craft following illustrated directions
   H. Depict “in writing”: recipe or craft directions, scientific explanations of observed events or experiments
      • Examples of “scientific explanations” include observation and recording of animal or plant development, properties of air or light.

2. Develop an awareness of the structure of print
   A. Sing the “Alphabet Song”
   B. Read the first names of other family members or classmates
   C. Develop an understanding of the relationship between spoken and written language by associating written word units on word labels and signs with spoken words
      • The goal in preschool is not to read or memorize flash cards of individual words, but to convey the understanding that a spoken word can be represented in writing. This association may be facilitated by attaching word labels to everyday objects in the classroom, and by helping children learn to recognize signs in the everyday environment
   D. Isolate and point to individual words as distinct units on a page of print
      • The goal is for the child to recognize how words are organized on a page, taking into account spacing within and between words
   E. Make attempts at using invented (phonetic) spelling to communicate in writing.

3. Develop phonemic awareness
   A. Segment a spoken sentence into separate, distinct words
   B. Indicate the number of phonemes (1-3) heard in a real or nonsense word by representing each phoneme heard with a token or object
   C. Blend spoken parts of a compound word and say a whole word; such as, “bill” – “board” – “billboard”
   D. Blend two spoken syllables and say whole word; such as, “pic” – “nic” = “picnic”
   E. Given a sound and a choice of two spoken words/pictures, identify the word that begins with the given sound
      • Example: Which starts with “ssss” – soap or cup?
   F. Given a spoken word/picture, give the beginning sound
      • Child is to produce sound, not letter sound
   G. Develop an understanding of the relationship between written letters and spoken sounds, identifying by name all letters in his or her first name and also identifying the sound made by at least three letters in his or her first name.

4. Develop the fine motor skills and strokes used in writing
   A. Hold a writing instrument correctly between the thumb and index finger, resting against the middle finger
   B. Trace and ten draw independently the outlines of geometric shapes (circle, triangle, rectangle) and irregular figures
   C. Draw on paper and use a motifs in designs: horizontal line, vertical line, point, diagonal line, zigzag line, circle, spiral, noon, cross, can, hook, bowl, bridge, wave, x, star, single loop, connected loops
   D. Write his or her first name
      • Variations in letter size and orientation, spacing, etc., are characteristic of preschool writing. The focus is on sufficient legibility so that the written name can generally be recognized by other children and adults

Language activities that will incorporate the above goals include:
1. Picture cards
2. Matching games with objects and with cards
3. Opposite cards  
4. Name cards  
5. Alphabet cards (both upper and lower case)  
6. Labels around the classroom  
7. Alphabet puzzles  
8. Different types of books  
9. Rhyming cards  
10. Alphabet letter/picture matching games  
11. Calendar  
12. Picture sequencing cards  
13. Alphabet letters on wall  
14. Puppets  
15. Flannelboard  
16. Dollhouse, farm, castle, etc. for vocabulary development  

Teacher resource books used for supplementation:  
1. Alphatales by Scholastic  
2. Alphabet Connections by Monday Morning  
3. Treasury of Year-Round Preschool Activities by Teacher Created Materials  
4. Alphabet Around the Year by Teacher Created Materials  
5. Jumbo Book of Preschool Activities by Teacher Created Materials  
6. Holiday Piggyback Songs by Totline  
7. Letter of the Week by The Education Center  
8. Reading Connections by Monday Morning
Language development in children is amazing. And at 0-8 years, lots of talking and listening together is the secret to helping your child learn language. Language development in children is amazing, and it’s a development that many parents really look forward to. The secret to helping children learn language is very simple: talk together lots and listen lots. On this page: Language development in children: what you need to know. How to encourage early language development in children. Language Development in Children Introduction. At the age of 18 months children begin to use two-word sentences to communicate their ideas, and by 24-30 months these children are avid language users. The process by which children acquire language is a complex process that is still not completely understood.