

## Description of Tasks: PALS-PreK

PALS-PreK includes six tasks, designed to be administered in the fall, mid-year, and spring of the 4-year-old preschool year. All tasks are administered individually and are un-timed. The tasks are:

- **Name Writing** – The child is asked to draw a self-portrait and write his/her own name. Scored on a developmental continuum ranging from scribbles to the use of mixed symbols to writing entire name correctly.
- **Alphabet Knowledge** – The child is asked to name the 26 upper-case letters of the alphabet presented in random order. Children who know 16 or more upper-case letters proceed with the lower-case alphabet recognition task. Children who know 9 or more lower-case letters are asked to produce the sounds associated with 23 letters and three consonant digraphs (ch, sh, th).
- **Beginning Sound Awareness** – The child says the name of a picture and is asked to produce the beginning sound for each of these target words.
- **Print and Word Awareness** – The child is asked to point to various text components in a familiar rhyme printed in book format. There are ten items for this task.
- **Rhyme Awareness** – From three pictures, students are asked to identify the picture that rhymes with the fourth target picture. There are ten items for this task.
- **Nursery Rhyme Awareness** – The teacher recites lines from nursery rhymes and stops before the end, prompting the child to supply the final rhyming word.