

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 untimed. 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 uppercase letters and 26 lowercase letters of the alphabet presented in random order, and to produce the sounds associated with 23 letters and three consonant digraphs (ch, sh, th).
Lowercase letter recognition task is optional for children who know fewer than 16 uppercase letters. Letter sounds task is optional for children who know fewer than 9 lowercase letters.
- **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.