

FIGURE 15: Developmental descriptors of writing. (Adapted from O'Malley & Valdez-Pierce, 1996, p 146)

| Development of writing skills | | |
|--|-------------------------|--------------|
| Student's Name: | | Date: |
| Development stages/characteristics | Teacher comments | |
| Stage 1: Pre-emergent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scribbles or draws to communicate. ● Show interest in letters and words. | | |
| Stage 2: Emergent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Can recognize letters or simple words. ● Uses letters to label drawings (A, B, C). ● Sometimes writes from left to right. ● Sometimes writes with sound/symbol relationship. ● May be able to explain writing. | | |
| Stage 3: Dependent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Uses his/her own inventive spelling. ● Copies print from the environment. ● Uses simple vocabulary. ● Leaves space between words. ● Develops a sense of story. ● May forget meaning over time. ● Meaning sometimes evident to reader. | | |
| Stage 4: Developing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Uses vowels in inventive spelling. ● Writes simple sentences. ● Writes about personal experience. ● Can read writing to an audience. ● Re-reads to check meaning. | | |
| Stage 5: Independent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Links oral language to writing. ● Writes for various purposes. ● Uses a plan when writing. ● Makes corrections when writing. ● Develops authorship and voice. | | |