



# MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

## SUMMARY OF PRIMARY ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM

### RATIONALE

Language learning is conceptualised as an interactive process. No single skill can be taught in isolation since language is as an integrated, collaborative activity. Within a typical language session, students engage in talking and asking questions, listening, reading and writing. Each skill becomes a medium for supporting and reinforcing the other.

### LANGUAGE CONTEXT

In Trinidad and Tobago, the co-existence of two linguistic systems, English Creole and Standard English, poses problems for learners of English. The Language Arts curriculum explicitly recognizes the nature of this challenge and seeks to address it. Both systems are valued.

### GOALS

The main goal of the English Language Arts curriculum is to enable pupils to communicate effectively through speech and writing, by means of Standard English. It also emphasises creative and critical thinking.

### STRANDS

<b>Listening &amp; Speaking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Listen with a high degree of understanding to instructions, descriptions, explanations and narration in Standard English, in a familiar accent and in the vocabulary and sentence structure appropriate to his/her age.</li><li>• Speak, using words exactly and precisely for his/her age, to communicate thoughts and feelings, as well as demonstrate spontaneity in speaking in a variety of situations</li></ul>
<b>Reading &amp; Literature</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read effectively, and for different purposes, a variety of material presented through the print or electronic media.</li><li>• Respond sensitively, to varied and meaningful literature and other forms of art at the appropriate level</li></ul>
<b>Writing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Express legibly, in writing, explanations, narratives, descriptions and letters.</li></ul>

<b>Visual Literacy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use various forms of visual literacy to interpret and gain information.</li></ul>
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## **TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES**

Principles which undergird the following teaching and assessment are the use of language to accomplish genuine purposes in meaningful experience-based contexts and interactive classroom climate that encourages risk-taking.

- Role- playing and dramatization
- Use of oral and written text combining form, function, meaning and situation
- Use of objects, charts, maps, tables, cartoons and other visual materials
- Use of a variety of controlled and meaningful drills and dialogue practice
- Authentic, varied oral literacy tasks for which structures are required.