

Example unit of text messages: 4-year-old literacy

Wisconsin standard (WMELS)	FACT (Monday)	TIP (Wednesday)	GROWTH (Friday)
A.EL. 2 Listens and responds to communications with others.	FACT: Children need to be able to talk to their teachers and peers to be successful in school. You can get children talking by asking silly questions.	TIP: On the way to school, ask: If you could make your own planet, what would you put on it? Dinosaurs, princesses & hamburgers? Talk about your planet too!	GROWTH: Keep asking silly questions to prepare 4K! Now ask follow-up questions: Do the princesses ride the dinosaurs? Do they eat hamburgers together?
B. EL. 2a Uses vocalizations and spoken language to communicate.	FACT: The more words your child knows, the more prepared s/he'll be to read, write & talk. Children who know many words have a big advantage in school!	TIP: As you do the laundry, introduce words like sort, launder & detergent. Say: We sort clothes to group them into piles. Can you help me sort the socks?	GROWTH: Keep introducing new words. You're preparing your child 4K! Now ask questions about the words: What else do we sort? (Mail, dishes, groceries)
C. EL. 2 Understands concept that the alphabet represents the sounds of spoken language and the letters of written language.	FACT: Before children can learn to read and write, they need to know the letters of the alphabet. Letters are the basic building blocks of written language.	TIP: When you're in the kitchen, hunt for the first letter of your child's name on cans, boxes & labels. Who can find it first? Can you find all of the letters?	GROWTH: Keep hunting for letters to prepare your child 4K! Now after you find a letter, ask your child: What sound does it make? What words begin with that sound?
C. EL. 1 Develops ability to detect, manipulate, or analyze the auditory parts of spoken language.	FACT: Words are made up of many sounds. Playing rhyming games with your child is a fun way to help him/her learn this essential pre-reading skill.	TIP: Try rhyming on the go! At the gas station, ask your child: What rhymes with pump? (Bump, hump, stump) On the playground, try rhyming with the word slide.	GROWTH: Keep rhyming to prepare your child 4K! See if your child can make up pretend words that rhyme with his/her name. Like "Robert mobert" or "Maria faria."
SPIRAL	FACT: The grocery store is great for building literacy skills. On the way to the store, ask: If you could only eat one food forever, what would it be? Why?	TIP: When you're at the store, go on a letter hunt. Can your child find an "A" on a sign, box, or food label? What about a "B"? Can s/he go all the way to "Z"?	GROWTH: Keep preparing 4K at the grocery store! As you walk by the eggs, ask: What rhymes with egg? (Leg, peg, beg) Try it with cheese! (Bees, knees, please)