

Anna

Age: 5

Language Background: Vietnamese is Anna's first language and the language spoken in her home.

Literacy Progression: In September, Anna came into school strong linguistically in Vietnamese and speaking a few words and phrases in English (*hello, good-bye, yes, and no*). She was comfortable telling her stories through drawings and paintings, and she could write her name. Early in the year, her writing topics were usually some variation of her playing with her Barbie. (We remember when we extinguished a candle during end-of-the-class ritual, Anna sniffed the air and told us, "Smell like burned Barbie!")



By the end of February, she was adding marks and letters to her drawings and speaking in English more often in class with her friends and with adults.

Now, in May, her written and oral language skills are exploding. She talks frequently and comfortably in English, adding to small-group discussions (such as table talk with friends) and experimenting with whole sentences in English. In writing, she still tells her stories by using pictures with details, and now she adds letters to represent sounds. She writes on many topics, from experiences with her family, to what she has seen on TV, to the books the class is exploring.

Insights: Anna uses everything at her disposal to communicate: facial expressions, hand gestures, body movements, writing, drawing, and speaking. She is a quietly confident learner who is delighting in her own expertise and growth as a writer and communicator.

Writing Samples:

