

How Can I Get DIBELS?

There are several options for obtaining the DIBELS assessment materials.

- Download the materials for free from:
<http://dibels.uoregon.edu/>
- Purchase printed classroom box sets from Sopris West:
<http://www.sopriswest.com/>
- Purchase the Palm Pilot version of DIBELS from Wireless Generation:
<http://www.wirelessgeneration.com/>
- Other Languages
A Spanish-language version of DIBELS, IDEL, is now available. For more information, see the above sites.

For More Information About DIBELS

- Dynamic Measurement Group: Home of DIBELS and official training on DIBELS by the authors
<http://dibels.org/>
- DIBELS Data System: The DIBELS Data System allows you to enter your student data online and generate automated reports.
<http://dibels.uoregon.edu>

Other Reading Resources

- Big Ideas in Beginning Reading
<http://reading.uoregon.edu/>
- Florida Center for Reading Research
<http://www.fcrr.org/>
- Vaughn Gross Center for Reading and Language Arts
<http://www.texasreading.org/utcrla/>
- Reading Rockets
<http://www.readingrockets.org/>
- National Institute for Literacy
<http://www.nifl.gov/>

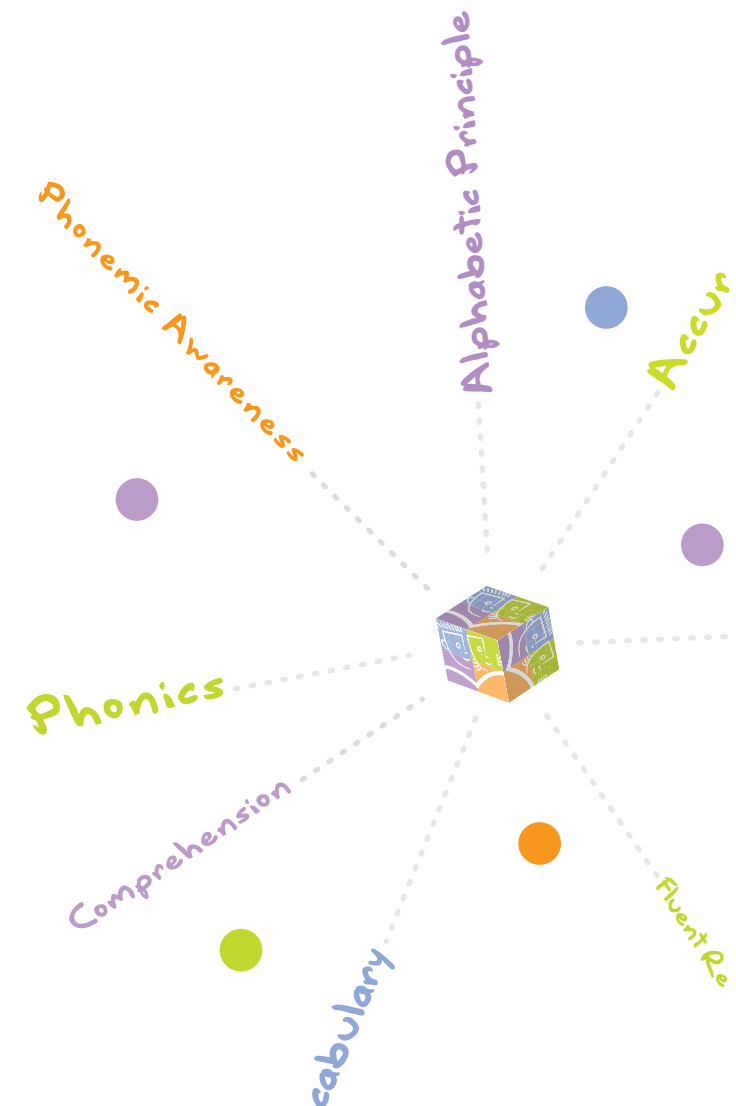
Dynamic Measurement Group
132 E. Broadway, Suite 636
Eugene, OR 97401
ph: 541-431-6931
fax: 866-211-1450
email: info@dibels.org



Dynamic
Measurement Group
Supporting School Success One Step at a Time

What are DIBELS?

Dynamic Indicators of
Basic Early Literacy Skills





DIBELS[®] are...

Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills,
measures designed to quickly and efficiently assess reading and pre-reading skills in Kindergarten through Sixth Grade.

Indicators of Essential Skill Areas

The DIBELS measures are *indicators* of the skill area they are designed to assess. Just as a pediatrician measures a child's height and weight as a quick and efficient indicator of that child's physical development, each DIBELS measure is a quick and efficient indicator of how well a child is doing in learning a particular early reading skill.

The Five Essential Skill Areas of Early Literacy

The DIBELS measures were developed to be indicators of the essential early literacy skills that a child must master to become a good reader.

- **Phonemic Awareness:** Hearing and using sounds in spoken words.
- **Alphabetic Principle and Phonics:** Knowing the sounds of the letters and sounding out written words.
- **Accurate and Fluent Reading:** Reading stories and other materials easily and quickly with few mistakes.
- **Vocabulary:** Understanding and correctly using a variety of words.
- **Comprehension:** Understanding what is spoken or read.

Why Should I Use DIBELS?

- The DIBELS measures are fast and efficient indicators of critical early literacy skills.
- DIBELS can help you identify students who may need additional instruction to become good readers, and can help you monitor those students to ensure they make adequate progress.
- DIBELS are cost-effective. All of the DIBELS assessment materials are available for free download for educational use, or can be purchased for a reasonable fee.

How Can I Use DIBELS In My School?

You can use DIBELS to:

- **Identify students who may be at risk for reading difficulties.**
By testing your students on DIBELS three times per year, in the Fall, Winter, and Spring, you can identify children who are "on track" for learning to read, and also identify children who may need additional instructional support to meet reading goals.
DIBELS are used to help children learn to read. They are not used to grade children or to make decisions about retention.

- **Monitor at-risk students while they receive additional, targeted instruction.**

You can monitor progress of students who receive additional instructional support to ensure they are making adequate progress. If a student is not making progress, you can adjust the support to meet the student's learning needs.

- **Examine the effectiveness of your school's instructional supports.**

Similar to looking at an individual student's progress to determine if that child needs additional help, you can examine the overall outcomes at the class or school level to determine if there are areas where your school's instructional supports can be improved.

Because the DIBELS measures are indicators of larger skill areas, it is important to teach those skill areas broadly, and not teach to the test. The DIBELS materials have been designed for assessment, not for instruction, and should not be practiced. A good, research-based core reading curriculum should include activities to teach the essential skill areas, and you can supplement those activities with other reading programs as needed.

Research on DIBELS

A series of research studies conducted beginning in the early 1990s and continuing today has documented that childrens' performance on DIBELS is predictive of and strongly related to childrens' reading success. For more information about research on DIBELS, please see the web sites listed.