



Resource Guide

NONWORD READING

What is Nonword Reading?

Nonword Reading assesses a child's ability to read words that they have never seen. A nonword is just that, a word that is not a real word and has no meaning. Since these words are not real, a child is not able to pull the word from long-term memory or sight-word vocabulary. The child is required to use their knowledge of grapheme-phoneme relationships and decoding strategies in order to read the nonword correctly. Holding sounds in sequential order in working memory while blending the sounds together becomes important in reading nonwords correctly.

Mapping sounds

A child must have quick recall of letter sounds and solid development of blending speech sounds fluently. Make sure your child knows the sounds that are represented by letters.

Blending letter sounds to form nonwords

Start with letter sounds that can be elongated, such as, /o/, /a/, /m/, /l/, etc. Have your child touch each letter, holding the sound as they go.

Ex: /l/, /o/, /m/, to blend the nonword **lom**.

Spelling patterns

Begin with words that have a consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) pattern, and then transition to words that have a consonant-vowel-consonant-silent E (CVCe) pattern.

Ex: /p/, /a/, /f/, to blend the nonword **paf**, then move to /m/, /a/, /p/, /e/, to blend the nonword **mape**.

Want more?

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Benchmark Milestones

NONWORD READING

Benchmark milestones are specific goals that children are expected to achieve at certain stages of their early literacy development

BOY- Beginning of the Year; MOY- Middle of the Year; EOY- End of the Year

Kindergarten	MOY	1st-20th %tile: Can read limited or no VC or CVC patterns Ex: bo, dif 21st-40th %tile: Can read some CVC patterns with digraphs Ex: pash 41st-99th %tile: Can read some CVC patterns with digraphs and blends Ex: pash, blig
	EOY	1st-20th %tile: Can read limited or no VC or CVC patterns Ex: bo, dif 21st-40th %tile: Can read some CVC patterns Ex: dif 41st-99th %tile: Can read some CVC patterns with digraphs and blends Ex: pash, blig
First Grade	BOY & MOY	1st-20th %tile: Can read limited or no CVC patterns Ex: dif 21st-40th %tile: Can read some CVC patterns with digraphs Ex: thig 41st-99th %tile: Can read most CVC patterns with digraphs and blends Ex: flim
	EOY	1st-20th %tile: Can read limited or no CVC patterns with digraphs Ex: thig 21st-40th %tile: Can read most CVC patterns with digraphs and blends Ex: flim 41st-99th %tile: Can read VCE patterns Ex: ope

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BOY- Beginning of the Year; MOY- Middle of the Year; EOY- End of the Year

Second Grade	BOY, MOY, & EOY	1st-20th %tile: Can read limited or no closed syllable patterns Ex: bung 21st-40th %tile: Can read some closed syllable patterns with digraphs and blends Ex: thub, dran 41st-99th %tile: Can read most closed syllable patterns and some silent e patterns Ex: vope
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