



Resource Guide

WORD READING

What is Word Reading?

Word Reading assesses a child's ability to recognize and read grade-level, frequently occurring written words. These words are commonly referred to as sight words. In early grades, sight words are typically high-frequency words, either phonetically regular or irregular, that a child will commit to long-term memory. Word Reading requires the ability to decode a word and connect the print to its sound and meaning. To read a word with fluency and automaticity, a child must have committed the word to long-term memory.

Matching sounds to letters

In order to reach proficiency in word reading, children must first reach mastering in mapping sounds onto letters. A child needs quick recall of these letter sounds and solid development of blending and the coarticulation of speech sounds in a fluent manner.

Irregular letter/sound patterns

Children may encounter words that contain irregular letter/sound patterns. For instance, in Kindergarten the words **said**, **was**, and **of** would fall into this phonologically irregular spelling pattern at that grade level. It is helpful to have children identify the irregular sounding grapheme and highlight the irregularity to commitment of the word to long-term memory.

Want more?

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Benchmark Milestones

WORD 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 & EOY	1st-20th %tile: Can read limited or no Pre-Kindergarten high frequency words Ex: my 21st-40th %tile: Can read some Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten high frequency words Ex: the 41st-99th %tile: Can read more Kindergarten high frequency words Ex: watch
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First Grade	BOY	1st-20th %tile: Can read limited or no Kindergarten high frequency words Ex: the 21st-40th %tile: Can read some Kindergarten high frequency words Ex: want 41st-99th %tile: Can read more Kindergarten high frequency words Ex: none
	MOY	1st-20th %tile: Can read limited or no Kindergarten high frequency words Ex: the 21st-40th %tile: Can read some Kindergarten high frequency words Ex: none 41st-99th %tile: Can read some 1st grade high frequency words Ex: there
	EOY	1st-20th %tile: Can read limited or no Kindergarten high frequency words Ex: the 21st-40th %tile: Can read some Kindergarten or 1st grade high frequency words Ex: there 41st-99th %tile: Can read more 1st grade high frequency words Ex: watch
Second Grade	BOY	1st-20th %tile: Can read limited or no 1st grade high frequency words Ex: none 21st-40th %tile: Can read some 1st grade high frequency words Ex: watch 41st-99th %tile: Can read most 1st grade high frequency words Ex: certain
	MOY & EOY	1st-20th %tile: Can read limited or no 1st grade high frequency words Ex: watch 21st-40th %tile: Can read limited 1st grade high frequency words Ex: certain 41st-99th %tile: Can read most 1st grade and some 2nd grade high frequency words Ex: pharmacy