

Where-to-Start Word Test

Description Students read a levelled word list.

You Need

- ▶ The Where-to-Start Word List
- ▶ The Where-to-Start Chart to determine the level at which to start Benchmark Assessment
- ▶ Where-to-Start Individual Record form

Why Use It

If you do not have or are not confident about reading performance information about a child, this quick assessment will give you a broad notion of the level at which to begin Benchmark Assessment.

How to Use It

- ▶ Ask the student to read the list for the level below his/her year level (e.g. Kindergarten/Foundation students and Year 1 students should begin with the **Beginning** list, Year 2 students with **List 1**, Year 4 students with **List 3**, etc.).
- ▶ *"I want you to read some words. When you come to a hard word, try it. If you cannot read it, go on to the next word. I'll be making notes while you read. Start here."*
- ▶ Place a card under the first word in the appropriate word list. Have the child move the card down the list as he reads. If the student spends too much time on a word (more than 5 seconds), say *"Read the next one."*
- ▶ As the student reads, score and record word reading on a copy of the list:
 1. Tick each word read accurately, including correct guesses, self-corrected readings and accepted local variations in pronunciation.
 2. Write incorrect responses next to each word. If word not attempted, leave the space blank.
 3. Score as errors words that the student
 - cannot read
 - substitutes with another word or other sounds
 - says several different ways and is uncertain of the correct pronunciation
 - reads incompletely (*bed* instead of *beds*) or adds sounds to (*plays* instead of *play*)
 4. Do not prompt, coach or ask the student to repeat a word (unless you could not hear it).
 5. Record the number of words read accurately at the bottom of each list.

If the child reads 19 to 20 words on a list correctly, then go to the next list. If a child reads fewer than 18 words correctly, then stop and begin the text reading at the appropriate level shown on the chart below.

Where-to-Start Chart

Number Correct	Beginning List	List 1	List 2	List 3	List 4
0-5	A	A	E	I	M
6-10	A	B	F	J	M
11-15	A	C	G	K	N
16-18	B	D	H	L	N
19-20	Go to List 1	Go to List 2	Go to List 3	Go to List 4	N