Benchmark
Assessment System 1
THIRD EDITION

Vowel Clusters

Description   Children read words with vowels that appear together and represent one sound.

You Need
- ▶ Vowel Clusters, Word Lists 1, 2 and 3
- ▶ Vowel Clusters Assessment—Individual Record form
- ▶ Vowel Clusters Assessment—Class Record form

Why Use It   Children need to learn the various vowel combinations that often appear together in words. This knowledge helps them build the capacity to remember how words "look" rather than relying only on the sound. Knowing several examples for each vowel cluster helps children read new words.

How to Use It
- ▶ Begin by reviewing the list of words found on the Individual Record. Select the list that is most appropriate for your group of children. List 1 contains simple vowel combinations (*ee, ea, ai, oa*) that children may have learnt in Year 2. For an experienced group, you may want to begin with List 2, going on to List 3 if children find the tasks very easy.
  - ▶ Have children read the list individually. Record their responses on the Individual Record by ticking words read accurately and recording substitutions.
  - ▶ It is not necessary for the child to produce 100% accuracy of all vowel combinations; consider the principle learnt if there is a high level of accuracy. You will not need to provide a lesson on every vowel combination. If children know the principle and quite a few combinations, they will learn more from reading and writing.

What to Notice
- ▶ Number of words with vowel clusters the child can read
- ▶ Number of words with vowel clusters for which the child can provide accurate representation of the cluster
- ▶ Particular vowel clusters the child controls in reading