

Developmental Spelling Assessment

Spelling is a window into a child's knowledge of written words. Children's knowledge of the structure of the language underlies their ability to read words efficiently and effectively as well as to write most words with little conscious effort. Competency in spelling is an integral component of becoming a fluent and efficient reader and writer.

Spelling can be used to guide instruction. The spelling assessment tool below is designed to gain insight into the child's knowledge of writing. Children entering Stage 1 (usually Grade 1) of *Early Reading Intervention* will demonstrate a limited competency in spelling the words being dictated.

The child prints the words on a lined piece of paper as the teacher:

- says the word
- says the sentence
- repeats the word.

The teacher dictates the first ten words. If the child does not seem tired or frustrated the next five words can be attempted.

Letter Name Stage

	Word	Sentence	Feature
1.	cut	I cut my finger.	Initial and final consonants
2.	map	This is a map to my house.	
3.	ship	The ship sails the sea.	Initial consonant blends and digraphs
4.	glad	I am glad that you are here.	
5.	hop	I will hop into the tub.	Short Vowels
6.	wet	My clothes are wet.	
7.	jet	The jet is huge.	Affricates. The "j" and "ch" sounds are examples of affricates.
8.	chip	I ate the potato chip.	
9.	bump	There is a bump in the road.	Final consonant blends and digraphs
10.	fish	The fish tastes good.	

Within-Word Pattern Stage

11.	ripe	The apple is ripe.	Long vowels: vowel-consonant-e (vce)
12.	frame	The window frame is painted.	
13.	girl	That girl is my friend.	R-influenced vowel patterns
14.	clear	The water is very clear.	
15.	steep	The road has a steep hill.	Other common long vowels
16.	tight	My jeans are tight.	
17.	bridge	We walked across the bridge.	Complex consonant units
18.	scrub	I will scrub the floor.	
19.	clown	The clown is very funny.	Abstract vowels: digraphs and diphthongs
20.	shook	The dog shook his wet coat.	

Adapted from: Ganske, K, 1999. The Developmental Spelling Analysis: A Measure of Orthographic Knowledge. Educational Assessment 6: 141-71