

BEGINNING DECODING SKILLS SURVEY

General Instructions

The *Beginning Decoding Skills Survey* is designed to pinpoint specific difficulties the struggling readers have decoding words with short vowels and reading simple sentences. The Survey is NOT exhaustive. Rather, it is carefully designed to identify specific skills the student may not have mastered. A general rule of thumb is that students who make more than three errors on the *Beginning Decoding Skills Survey* need instruction in how to read simple, one syllable words with short vowels accurately. A student who has one or more errors checked in any column indicates a weakness in that skill.

The *Beginning Decoding Skills Survey* is for struggling readers of any age – from the middle of first grade through adulthood. We recommend administering the *Beginning Decoding Skills Survey* to any struggling reader older than 6 ½ years old. If a student who is in second grade or older makes three or fewer than errors on the *Beginning Decoding Skills Survey*, administer the *Advanced Decoding Skills Survey*.

Directions:

Record scores and errors on the Scoring Form. If the student makes an error, be sure to record what the student reads. If the student doesn't get the correct answer, record the number of times it takes to get the answer correct.

1. Give the student the Words and Sentences to Read page.
2. Ask the student to read the words at the top of the page. Ask the student to read the words in each column. Stop when the student misses three in a row and ask the student if s/he can read any other words in that part of the page.
3. Ask the student to read the sentences in the middle of the page.
4. Ask the student to read the nonsense words at the bottom of the page. You may have to explain that nonsense words can be read, but they don't mean anything. (I call them "Martian words".)
5. When a student misreads a word, write what he reads next to the word on the Error Pattern Chart.
6. Record error patterns on the Error Pattern Chart by putting a check in the box that describes the specific student error.

USING THE ERROR PATTERN CHART TO GUIDE INSTRUCTION

Teach the skills the student is missing, which will be indicated by more than one checkmark in a column with the missing skill, or area of weakness, as the header. In general, begin teaching the skill furthest to the left on the chart that is checked.

Words and Sentences to Read

see	rag	rich	dust
one	lid	shop	step
play	dot	tack	trip
you	hum	whip	pond
are	bet	thin	brag

1. The cat hid in a box.
 2. The fish is still in the deep lake.
 3. Seven pink shellfish were in my bathtub.
-

vop	shap
yuz	thit
zin	chut
keb	wheck

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ERROR PATTERN CHART - Beginning Decoding Skills Survey

1. Attach the Beginning Decoding Skills Survey Scoring Form.
2. Cross off all words not attempted and put a check in the *No Try* box.
3. Write all words read incorrectly on the line next to the word attempted.
4. Put a check in the box in the chart that describes the error(s) for each word.

Comments (continue on back):

Observations: (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slow
<input type="checkbox"/> Guesses after trying to decode using letter-sound analysis
<input type="checkbox"/> Reads sound-by-sound, but cannot blend | <input type="checkbox"/> Quick to guess
<input type="checkbox"/> Possible b/d reversal |
|---|---|

Real Words		Error Patterns									
		No Try	Sight Word	Consonants		Short Vowels	Extra Sound(s) Added	Digraphs	Blends	Long Vowels	Two Syllables
				Initial	Final						
<i>High Frequency Words</i>											
1	see										
2	one										
3	play										
4	you										
5	are										
<i>CVC Words</i>											
6	rag										
7	lid										
8	dot										
9	hum										
10	bet										
<i>Digraphs & Short Vowels</i>											
11	rich										
12	shop										
13	tack										
14	whip										
15	thin										
<i>Blends & Short Vowels</i>											
16	dust										
17	step										
18	trip										
19	pond										
20	brag										
Sentences											
1	The cat hid in a box.										
2	The fish is still in the deep lake.										
3	Seven pink shellfish were in my bathtub.										
Nonsense Words											
<i>CVC</i>											
21	vop										
22	yuz										
23	zin										
24	keb										
<i>Digraphs</i>											
25	shap										
26	thit										
27	chut										
28	wheck										