

Assessing the level at which a pupil is reading a particular book

The sheet overleaf can be used to assess the level at which the pupil is reading on a particular book. If the pupil's accuracy rate falls within the frustration level, then the reading material is too hard. Pupils need to have experience of reading material at both the instructional and independent level, if they are to progress in reading. Reading at the independent level promotes fluency and increases motivation. Reading at the instructional level allows new skills to develop without risk of frustration or failure.

The level is assessed by the percentage of words read accurately or understood, or the rate of words read per minute.

To calculate the percentages for accuracy and comprehension respectively, follow the instructions below:

Oral Reading Accuracy

To complete columns (a) and (b) count the total number of words read (T) from a book, or a selection of words in isolation and note the number of errors (E). The percentage accuracy is calculated by $\frac{T-E}{T} \times 100$. The greater the number of total words read, the greater the

accuracy of the estimate of the reading level obtained. However, the total amount of words read on any book for an Informal Reading Inventory will be dependent upon the pupil's age, concentration and skills.

Reading Comprehension

To complete column (c) Words out of context present words from the text in isolation. The pupil is asked to say what each word means. The percentages are calculated in a similar way to oral reading accuracy.

To complete column (d) Answering questions using contextual cues, prepare a number of comprehension questions in advance. These should involve critical comprehension as well as literal comprehension. Obviously the level obtained will only present a rough estimate of the pupil's skills on the particular material used as this is a very informal assessment.

Rate of Reading

Columns (e) and (f) Rate of reading are calculated by timing a piece of reading (minimum 5 mins) and working out the words read per minute.

(NB the reading level obtained is relevant **only** for the particular book or set of words used and particular comprehension questions asked).

Assessing the level at which a pupil is reading a particular book - from P Pumphrey

<i>Reading Level</i>	<i>Skills Tested</i>					
	Oral Reading Accuracy			Reading Comprehension		Rate of Reading
	<i>a.</i> Words in isolation		<i>b.</i> Words in context	<i>c.</i> Definition of words out of context (text removed)	<i>d.</i> Answering questions using contextual cues (text)	<i>e.</i> Oral <i>f.</i> Silent
	<i>i.</i> flash presentation (half sec exposure)	<i>ii.</i> untimed				
Independent Level	90% - 100%	95% - 100%	99% - 100%	90% - 100%	90% - 100%	Oral reading about half the rate of silent reading for the same level of comprehension
Instructional Level	50% - 89%	60% - 94%	95% - 98%	60% - 89%	70% - 89%	Oral reading rate equal to or not more than 15 words per minute less than silent reading
Frustration Level	below 50%	below 60%	below 95%	below 60%	below 70%	Oral reading faster than silent reading by up to 15 words per minute
Capacity Level					Listening comprehension of 75% of material	