

# **Screening & Tracking Manual**



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## How to Use the Foundation Screening & Tracking Manual



#### What is Included in This Foundation Screening & Tracking Manual?

This manual serves as a reference guide for the use of PLD's screening and tracking tools. Included are instructions on what and when to screen and the materials required.

The screens correlate with PLD's phonics and high frequency words teaching sequence. We recommended that the screens are administered following a solid period of repeated targeted instruction. In this way, the screens function as a check-in on student progress.

Keep in mind that it may be appropriate for schools to adapt the timing of the skills depending upon the demographics of the school community and the associated student entry levels to the school.

#### **How To Monitor Student Progress?**

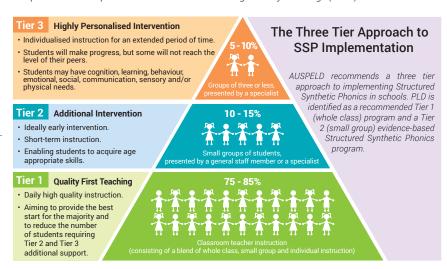
Tracking student development is central to the PLD process. Regular structured tracking from the Early Years to Year 6 is facilitated efficiently through the use of PLD's Tracking Sheets. These are available for download on our website and an instructional video is located here. The school should download the tracking sheets at the beginning of each school year and set them up for each class. This one document is then utilised throughout the year and populated each term by individual teachers based on the results of the Placement Tests and other screening tools. By the end of the school year this document will not only serve as an overview of every student's literacy development, but will also be useful when judging the effectiveness of PLD's implementation in each classroom

# How To Identify Students Who Are Delayed or Advanced?

PLD recognises that every class presents with a broad range in student ability and the individual needs of each student should be addressed and scaffolded through rigorous and relevant programming. Through the delivery of structured repeated targeted instruction, age-appropriate students should acquire skills as outlined within the Teaching Sequence Manual. However, it is highly likely for there to be students working below and above the typical skill acquisition level. In order to cater for this range in ability and program effectively, teachers should use their populated tracking sheets to divide their class into three groups. The groups are fluid and may change throughout the

#### Structured Synthetic Phonic Teaching

Adapted from "Independent Review of the Teaching of Early Reading" (2006)



year depending on the data. This instructional video explains how to use the tracking sheets to establish three targeted teaching groups and identify a learning focus for each group: <a href="https://pld-literacy.org/foundation-getting-started-with-pld/">https://pld-literacy.org/foundation-getting-started-with-pld/</a>

PLD's <u>Foundation Teaching Sequence Manual</u> applied in conjunction with this Year 1 & 2 Screening & Tracking Manual will facilitate increased student outcomes and a higher degree of consistency across classrooms.

#### How To Get Started With PLD's Screening & Tracking?

- Step 1: Complete the Learning to read, spell and write in Foundation online course.
- Step 2: Download the Foundation Teaching Sequence Manual.
- Step 3: Download this Foundation Screening & Tracking Manual.
- Step 4: Register for, download and set up the PLD Tracking Sheets on a classroom or whole school level.
- Step 5: Review the <u>Foundation Teaching Sequence Manual</u> for where to start teaching and this Screening & Tracking Manual for details on your first progress check.

Each of these steps have been outlined in detail at: <a href="https://pld-literacy.org/foundation-getting-started-with-pld/">https://pld-literacy.org/foundation-getting-started-with-pld/</a>

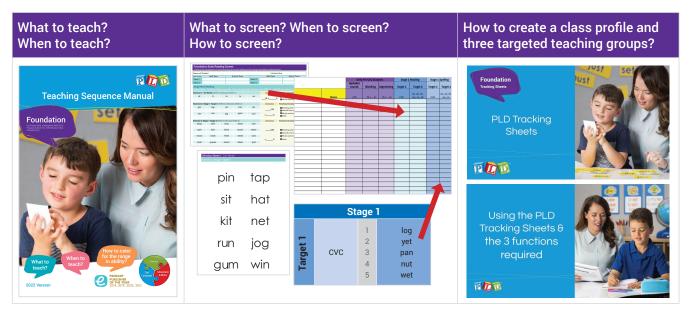
## **Using the PLD Tracking Sheets in Foundation**



The downloadable PLD Tracking Sheets are central to PLD's approach. The sheets link the <u>Foundation Teaching Sequence Manual</u> with the screening process outlined in this manual. Through mid and end of term progress checks, student's abilities are plotted onto the tracking sheets. Three groups are then created that form the basis of the targeted teaching. This process enables the classroom teacher to report on skill development of the class and simultaneously establish an implementation plan.

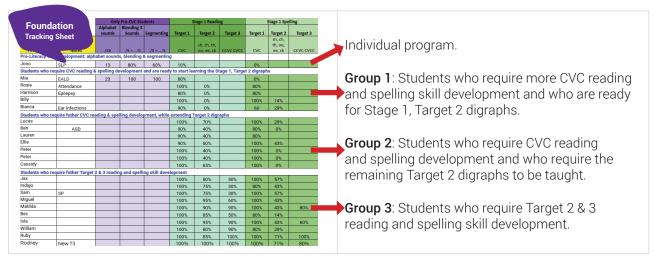
#### How To Get Started Using the PLD Tracking Sheets?

- Step 1: Download and set up the tracking sheets using the following link: <a href="https://pld-literacy.org/plds-tracking-sheets/">https://pld-literacy.org/plds-tracking-sheets</a>. The tracking sheets should be converted into a 'cloud-based' format and stored on the school's shared drive. Each class is allocated a different tab, indicated by its label.
- Step 2: What to teach? When to teach? Each day, schedule multiple explicit short sessions, as outlined in the Foundation Teaching Sequence Manual.
- Step 3: What to screen? When to screen? How to screen? During Week 6, and again in Week 10, schedule progress checks through the presentation of short subtests (as outlined in this manual).
- Step 4: Enter the results in the PLD Tracking Sheets. A sample entry for Foundation has been outlined below.
- Step 5: How to create a class profile and three targeted teaching groups? Watch the Foundation PLD Tracking Sheets video <a href="https://pld-literacy.org/foundation-getting-started-with-pld/">https://pld-literacy.org/foundation-getting-started-with-pld/</a> for an explanation on how to process the test results and adjust the order of the students by establishing three targeted teaching groups.



#### An Example of the Class Profile with Three Targeted Teaching Groups

This also serves to report on student skill development and PLD implementation.



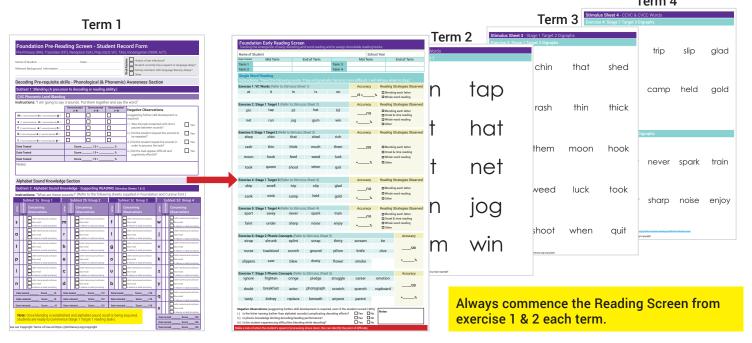
## **Overview of the Foundation Literacy Assessments**



The Foundation
Pre-Reading Screen tracks
the precursors of decoding (ie:
blending the alphabet sounds).

The Foundation Early Reading Screen is designed to track the development of decoding and word reading with increasingly complex phonics. This information will highlight the areas requiring targeted teaching and will also assist in the allocation of decodable reading material.

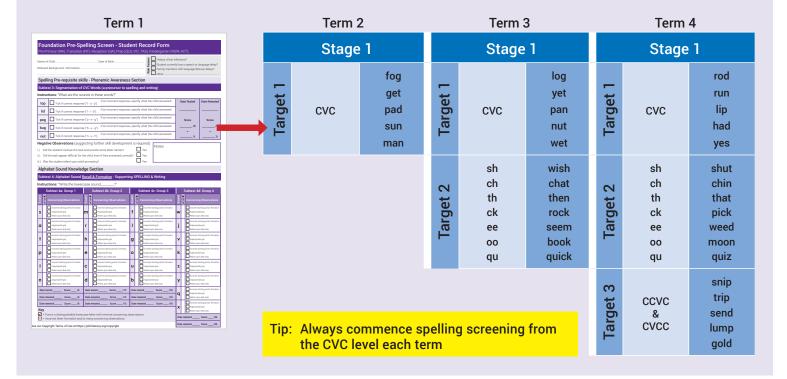
Term 4



### The Foundation

**Pre-Spelling Screen** tracks the precursors of spelling (ie: phonemic segmentation and alphabet recall and formation).

**The Foundation Spelling Screens** are designed to track the emergence of spelling. The screens can be used to track skill development each term and to assist in planning of targeted teaching and allocation of spelling levels.



# Scheduling PLD Screening & Tracking in Foundation



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	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Midterm screen e.g. by the end of Week 6	Pre-Reading & Pre-Spelling Screens  Present the relevant subtests:  Subtest 1 Blending Three Phonemes  Subtest 2 Alphabet Sounds  Subtest 3 Segmentation  Subtest 4 Alphabet Recall & Letter Formation  Reporting  Populate tracking sheet with student results.  Cluster class into three targeted teaching groups and set differentiated learning foci for the remainder of term.	Foundation Early Reading Screen Present the relevant parts: Exercise 1 VC (warm up) Exercise 2 CVC  Foundation Spelling Screening Present Stage 1 Target 1 Use the results to allocate decodable reading books & spelling tasks.  Reporting Populate tracking sheet with student results. Cluster class into three targeted teaching groups and set differentiated learning foci for the remainder of term.	Foundation Early Reading Screen Present the relevant parts: Exercise 1 VC (warm up) Exercise 2 CVC Exercise 3 Stage 1 Target 2 digraphs  Foundation Spelling Screening Present Stage 1 Target 1 & 2 Use the results to allocate decodable reading books & spelling tasks.  Reporting Populate tracking sheet with student results. Cluster class into three targeted teaching groups and set differentiated learning foci for the remainder of term.	Foundation Early Reading Screen Present the relevant parts:  Exercise 1 VC (warm up)  Exercise 2 CVC  Exercise 3 Stage 1 Target 2 digraphs  Exercise 4 CCVC & CVCC  Foundation Spelling Screening  Present Stage 1 Target 1, 2 & 3.  Use the results to allocate decodable reading books & spelling tasks.  Reporting  Populate tracking sheet with student results.  Cluster class into three targeted teaching three groups and set differentiated learning foci for the remainder of term.
Final week of term e.g. Week 10	Pre-Reading & Pre-Spelling Screens Repeat the relevant subtests (as above). If students have sufficient alphabet sound recall & blending ability, present Exercise 1 & 2 from the Foundation Early Reading Screen.	Foundation Early Reading Screen Repeat the relevant exercises (as above). Foundation Spelling Screening Present Stage 1 Target 1. Use the results to allocate decodable reading books & spelling tasks.	Foundation Early Reading Screen Repeat the relevant exercises (as above). Foundation Spelling Screening Present Stage 1 Target 1 & 2 Use the results to allocate decodable reading books & spelling tasks.	Term 4 Foundation Early Reading Screen Repeat the relevant exercises (as above). Foundation Spelling Screening Present Stage 1 Target 1, 2 & 3.
of t	Reporting	Reporting	Reporting	Reporting
week	Populate tracking sheet with student results.	Populate tracking sheet with student results.	Populate tracking sheet with student results.	Populate tracking sheet with student results.
Final	Cluster class into three targeted teaching groups and set	Cluster class into three targeted teaching groups and set	Cluster class into three targeted teaching groups and set	Prepare student tests for handover to next year's teacher.

Screening & Tracking Whole Class

#### Screening & Tracking Low Ability Students

Term 4.

It is likely that the students acquiring skills slower than their peers will be requiring regular teaching and screening of pre-CVC skills:

differentiated learning foci for

- Subtest 1 Blending Three Phonemes
- · Subtest 2 Alphabet Sound
- · Subtest 3 Segmentation

Both midterm & end of term

· Subtest 4 Alphabet Recall & Formation

It is likely that the students acquiring skills slower than their peers will be requiring regular teaching and screening of pre-

differentiated learning foci for

- · Subtest 1 Blending Three Phonemes
- · Subtest 2 Alphabet Sound
- · Subtest 3 Segmentation
- · Subtest 4 Alphabet Recall & Formation

By the end of the semester if these students have sufficient alphabet sound recall & blending ability, present Exercise 1 & 2 from the Foundation Early Reading Screen.

It is likely that these students may be a term behind their peers. If this is the case screen CVC skills using:

differentiated learning foci for

#### Foundation Early Reading Screen Present the relevant parts:

- Exercise 1 VC (warm up)
- · Exercise 2 CVC

#### Foundation Spelling Screening

Present Stage 1 Target 1.

It is likely that these students may be a term behind their peers. If this is the case screen CVC & early digraph skills using:

#### Foundation Early Reading Screen Present the relevant parts:

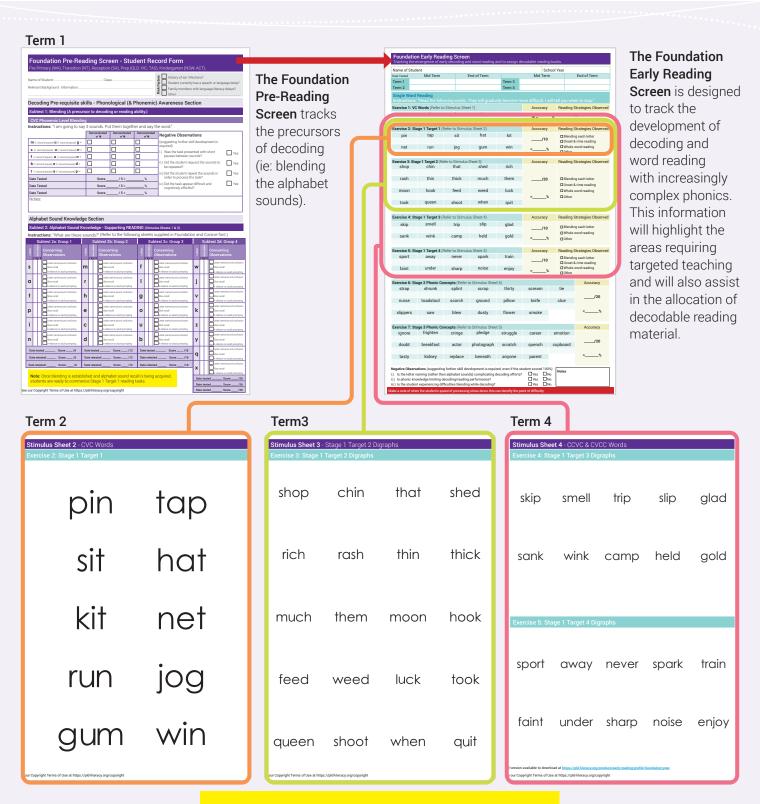
- · Exercise 1 VC (warm up)
- Exercise 2 CVC
- Exercise 3: Stage 1 Target 2

#### Foundation Spelling Screening

· Present Stage 1 Target 1 and 2.

# Section 1

# Foundation Pre-Reading & Early Reading Screens



Always commence screening from exercise 1each term.

# How to Conduct Foundation Pre-Reading & Early Reading Screens



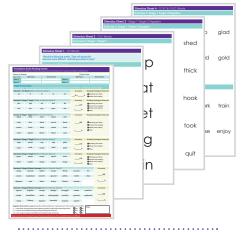
#### **Materials Required:**



Coloured pen



Pre-Reading Student Record Form & Stimulus Sheets



Early Reading Student Record Form & Stimulus Sheets



Coloured Piece of Card

#### Preparation:

Duplicate the student record forms for each student. Write the name of each student on the student record form. Add the date of the testing and who the screen is being administered by.

#### Estimated Time Allocation for.

Subtest 1: CVC Phonemic Blending (one minute, when presented individually). Instructions are located on page 9.

Subtest 2a, b, c, d: Alphabet Sound Knowledge - Supporting Reading (two minutes when presented individually).

Instructions are located on page 10.

Exercise 1, 2, 3, 4: Single Word Reading (three minutes when presented individually). Instructions are located on page 11 and 12.

#### Marking & Scoring the Reading Test Items:

Record exactly what the child has said (and not just a tick or cross). This will provide information on the student's early reading process.

Correct Reading of the Test Word	Example 1: Read the word 'tap'	Example 2: Read the word 'shop'
Sounds out and blends each alphabet sound (and digraph).	t/a/p ✔	sh/o/p 🗸
Sounds out with 'chunking' of some letters. May also be described as onset & rime reading.	t/ap 🗸	sh/op ✔
Reads the word automatically as a whole word, without sounding aloud or 'in the student's head'.	tap ✔	shop ✔
Incorrect Reading of the Test Word (always record exactly what the student verbalised)	top <b>≭</b> "tree"	shed <b>*</b> "shop"
Sounds out the word, but does not blend.	t/a/p? 🗙	shop? *
No response or would not attempt.	?	?
Other Observations		
Self corrected and reread (or re-attempted) the word.	t/a/p = tat SC ✔	sh/o/p = ship SC ✔
Rereads when a student loses their place and rereads a line(s) of words.	RR	RR
When the student is prompted with alphabet sounds, phonic sounds or blending.	Р	Р

## Foundation Pre-Reading Screen **Term 1 Blending Three Phonemes**



#### Instructions for the Presentation of Subtest 1: CVC Phonemic Level Blending

- Explanation to the student: "I am going to say three sounds. Put them together and say the word".
- Remember that NO prompting is permitted in the test items.
- In the space provided, write <u>exactly</u> what the student verbalised.
- · Note the occurrence of any observable 'Negative Observations' (which indicate that further skill development is still required) even if the student scores 100%.

Be sure to enter the results into the PLD Tracking Sheets.

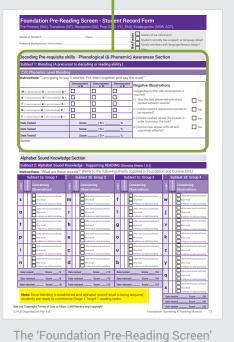
#### Decoding Pre-requisite skills - Phonological (& Phonemic) Awareness Section

Subtest 1: Blending (A precursor to decoding or reading ability.)

#### **CVC Phonemic Level Blending**

Instructions: "I am going to say 3 sounds. Put them together and say the word."

	Demonstrated  ✓ ¥	Demonstrated  ✓ ¥	Demonstrated	Negative Observations	
<b>m</b> (1 second pause) <b>u</b> (1 second pause)	g =			(suggesting further skill development is	
<b>s</b> (1 second pause) <b>u</b> (1 second pause)	n =			required) i.) Was the task presented with short	□ Vaa
f (1 second pause) a (1 second pause)	n =			pauses between sounds?	Yes
<b>b</b> (1 second pause) <b>e</b> (1 second pause)	d =			ii.) Did the student request the sounds to be repeated?	Yes
t (1 second pause) a (1 second pause)	<b>p</b> =			iii.) Did the student repeat the sounds in	☐ Yes
Date Tested	Score _	/5=	%	order to process the task?	
Date Tested	Score _	/5=	%	iv.) Did the task appear difficult and cognitively effortful?	Yes
Date Tested	Score _	/ 5 =	%	3 7	
Notes:					
Date Tested  Date Tested	Score	/ 5 =	%	order to process the task?	



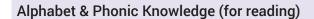
# Foundation Pre-Reading Screen Term 1: Alphabet Sound Knowledge

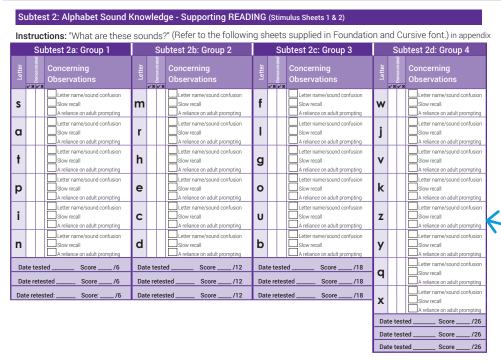


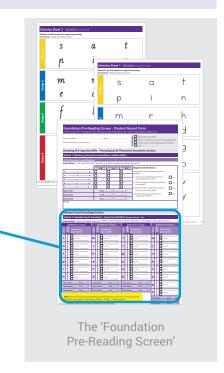
#### Instructions for the Presentation of Subtest 2: Alphabet Sound Knowledge - Supporting Reading

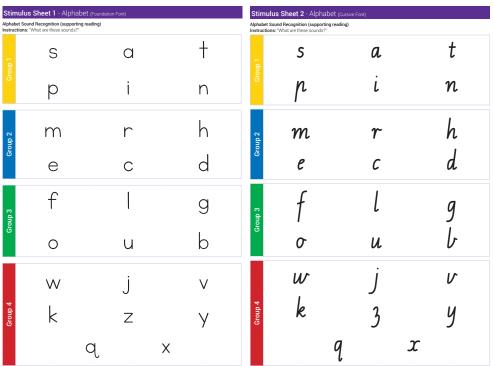
- Explanation to the student: "I am going to point to a sound. In the box number \_\_ I want you to say the sound ..."
- Remember that NO prompting is permitted in the test items.
- Progress through Subtests 2a, b, c & d and calculate each student's score out of 26.
- Remember to note the occurrence of any observable 'Concerning or Negative Observations' (which indicate that further skill development is still required) even if the student scores 100%.

Be sure to enter the results into the PLD Tracking Sheets.









Sample Stage 1 Phonic Screening:

rget 2:	th + th	ch	sh
e 1 Targe	ee	00 +	00
Stage	qu	ck	wh

# Foundation Early Reading Screen Term 1 & Term 2



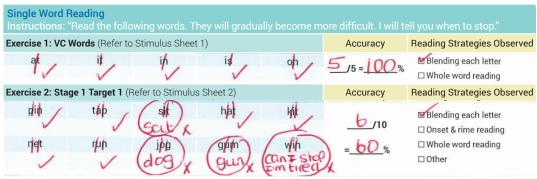
#### Instructions:

- Say: "You are going to do some reading for me. Place your finger under each word, and read each one. I will tell you when to stop."
- Use the coloured card to reveal one line of text at a time.

#### Discontinue Rule:

• Continue to read through the allocated subtests or reading exercises until the student makes five consecutive errors or if the student is visibly fatiguing or reluctant to continue.

#### A reading sample from a Foundation student in early Term 2:



#### A reading sample from a Foundation student in late Term 2:











# How to interpret the testing results from the Foundation Early Reading Screen?

At this stage of reading acquisition, students typically display with one or more of the following screening observations:

#### Accuracy:

- Exercise 2 reading accuracy will be steadily increasing but students can range from 20% to 80% or 100%.

#### **Reading Strategies:**

- Most students operating at this level will still be 'sounding-out' (decoding) words e.g. p/i/n or p/in, as opposed to whole word reading.

#### Other Relevant Observations:

- Decoding can be initially slow or laboured decoding of the words
- Students can initially show fatigue within the presentation of Exercise 2.

Single Word Instructions:		owing words. 1	hey will gradu	ally become m	ore difficult. I will to	ell you when to stop."		
Exercise 1: VC	Words (Refer to	o Stimulus Shee	t 1)		Accuracy	Reading Strategies Observed		Foundation
at	it	in	is	on	%	☐ Blending each letter ☐ Whole word reading	VC (Exercise 1)	Books: HRset1, AddHRset1,
Exercise 2: Sta	ige 1 Target 1 (	Refer to Stimulu	s Sheet 2)		Accuracy	Reading Strategies Observed	and	DLset1, DRset1, TUset1, SRmulti1
pin	tap	sit	hat	kit	/10	☐ Blending each letter	CVC	Year 1 & 2
net	run	ioa	aum	win	/10	☐ Onset & rime reading ☐ Whole word reading	(Exercise 2)	Catch-Up Books: HRset1b
net	Tull	Jog	gum	VVIII	=%	□ Other		THISCHI

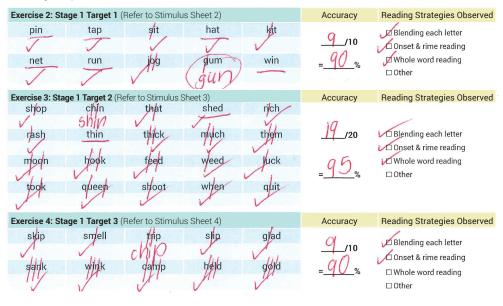
# Early Reading Screen Term 3 & Term 4



The instructions and preparation materials are outlined on page 8 and 11.

- It is likely that in Term 3 & Term 4, students will require the presentation of Exercise 2, 3 & 4.
- For lower ability students commence with Exercise 1 & 2.

#### A reading sample from a Foundation student at the end of Semester 2:



#### How to interpret the testing results from the Foundation Early Reading Screen?

At this stage of reading acquisition, students typically display one or more of the following screening observations:

#### Accuracy:

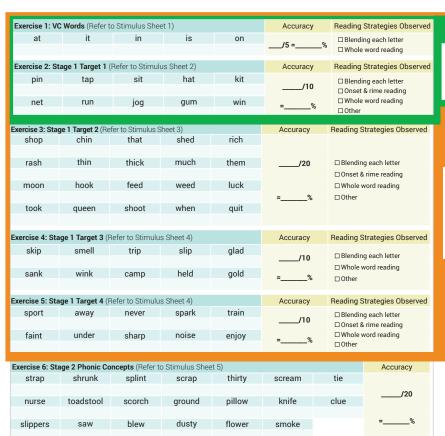
- Exercise 2 reading has become more accurate (e.g. 80%-100%).
- Exercise 3 reading accuracy will increase as phonic learning occurs.

#### **Reading Strategies:**

- Students should now be decoding with increased efficiency. This means that students should be beginning to transition from blending each letter/phonic concept to onset & rime decoding and occasionally full word automatic reading e.g. from sh/i/p to sh/ip or ship.

#### Other Relevant Observations:

- Students should be reading the words with increased speed.
- Fatigue should be less of a factor, as the student should be able to attempt Exercise 2, 3, & 4 in the one sitting.



#### VC (Exercise 1) & CVC (Exercise 2)

- Foundation Reading Books (Semester 1): HRset1, AddHRset1, DLset1, DRset1, TUset1, SRmulti1 (page 6-8)
- Year 1 & 2 Catch-Up Reading Books: HRset1b (page 18)



- Foundation Reading Books (Semester 2):
   HRset2, AddHRset2, TUset2, DLset2, DRset2, SRmulti2, NFmulti2 (page 9 12)
- Year 1 & 2 Catch-Up Reading Books: HRset2b, HRset34b (page 18-19)
- Year 3-6 Catch-Up Reading Books: MDog12, MDog1x, ThatDog1, MagBelt1 (page 20)









#### Foundation Pre-Reading Screen - Student Record Form Pre-Primary (WA), Transition (NT), Reception (SA), Prep (QLD, VIC, TAS), Kindergarten (NSW, ACT) **Risk Factors** History of ear infections? Student currently has a speech or language delay? Relevant Background Information..... Family members with language/literacy delays? Decoding Pre-requisite skills - Phonological (& Phonemic) Awareness Section Subtest 1: Blending (A precursor to decoding or reading ability.) **CVC Phonemic Level Blending** Instructions: "I am going to say 3 sounds. Put them together and say the word." Demonstrated Demonstrated Demonstrated **Negative Observations** (suggesting further skill development is $\mathbf{m}$ (1 second pause) $\mathbf{u}$ (1 second pause) $\mathbf{g}$ = required) S (1 second pause) U (1 second pause) n = i.) Was the task presented with short Yes pauses between sounds? **f** (1 second pause) **a** (1 second pause) **n** = ii.) Did the student request the sounds to **b** (1 second pause) **e** (1 second pause) **d** = t (1 second pause) a (1 second pause) p = iii.) Did the student repeat the sounds in Yes order to process the task? **Date Tested** Score \_/5= iv.) Did the task appear difficult and **Date Tested** /5=\_ cognitively effortful? **Date Tested** Score . /5=\_ Notes: **Alphabet Sound Knowledge Section** Subtest 2: Alphabet Sound Knowledge - Supporting READING (Stimulus Sheets 1 & 2)

etructions: "What are those sounds?" (Refer to the following sheets supplied in Foundation and Cursive font)

instructions. What are these sounds? (There to the following sheets supplied in Foundation and Gursive folic.)							
Subtest 2a: Group 1	Subtest 2b: Group 2	Subtest 2c: Group 3	Subtest 2d: Group 4				
Observations  Concerning	Left the state of	Tetter   Concerning   Concern	Concerning  Observations				
Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting	Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting	Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting	Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting				
Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting	Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting	Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting	Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting				
Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting	Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting	Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting	Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting				
Letter name/sound confusion  Slow recall  A reliance on adult prompting	Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting	Letter name/sound confusion  Slow recall  A reliance on adult prompting	Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting				
Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting	Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting	Letter name/sound confusion  Slow recall  A reliance on adult prompting	Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting				
Letter name/sound confusion  Slow recall  A reliance on adult prompting	Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting	Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting	Y Letter name/sound confusion  Slow recall  A reliance on adult prompting				
Date tested /6     Date retested /6	Date tested /12           Date retested /12	Date tested /18           Date retested /18	Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting				
Date retested:/6	Date retested Score/12	Date retested Score/18	Letter name/sound confusion Slow recall A reliance on adult prompting				
<b>Note:</b> Once blending is estab students are ready to commo		Date tested Score /26  Date tested Score /26					
ee our Convright Terms of Use at https	Date tested Score /26						

# Stimulus Sheet 1 - Alphabet (Foundation Font)

#### Alphabet Sound Recognition (supporting reading)

Instructions: "What are these sounds?"

Group 1	S		a		+
Gro	p		İ		n
Group 2	m		r		h
Gro	е		С		d
Group 3	f				9
Gro	0		u		b
	W		j		V
Group 4	k		Z		Y
		q		X	

# Stimulus Sheet 2 - Alphabet (Cursive Font)

#### Alphabet Sound Recognition (supporting reading)

**Instructions:** "What are these sounds?"

	: "What are these sounds	5.5	a		t
Group 1	p		i		n
Group 2	m		~		h
Gro	e		C		d
Group 3	f		l		9
Gro	0		U		b
	W		j		V
Group 4	k		3		y
		9		x	

Foundation Early Reading Screen
Tracking the emergence of early decoding and word reading and to assign decodable reading books.

Name of Stude	ent					School \	Year		
Date Tested	Mid Term	E	nd of Term		Mid T	erm		End of Term	
Term 1				Term 3					
Term 2				Term 4					
Single Word Instructions:	Reading "Read the follo	wing words. T	hey will gradua	ally become m	ore difficult	. I will te	ell you who	en to stop."	
Exercise 1: VC	Words (Refer to	Stimulus Shee	t 1)		Accura	асу	Reading S	Strategies Observed	
at	it	in	is	on	/5 =	%		ng each letter word reading	
Exercise 2: Sta	ge 1 Target 1 (F	Refer to Stimulu	s Sheet 2)		Accura	асу	Reading S	Strategies Observed	
pin	tap	sit	hat	kit		10	□ Onset 8	ng each letter & rime reading	
net	run	jog	gum	win	=	%	□ Whole •	word reading	
Exercise 3: Stag	ge 1 Target 2 (Re	fer to Stimulus S	Sheet 3)		Accura	асу	Reading S	Strategies Observed	
shop	chin	that	shed	rich		Í		J	
rash	thin	thick	much	them		/20	□ Blandir	ng each letter	
lasii	Cilli	UIICK	much	tileili	/	<b>720</b>		k rime reading	
moon	hook	feed	weed	luck	=	%	☐ Whole word reading ☐ Other		
took	queen	shoot	when	quit					
Exercise 4: Sta	ge 1 Target 3 (F	Refer to Stimulu	s Sheet 4)		Accura	асу	Reading S	Strategies Observed	
skip	smell	trip	slip	glad				1.1	
	i.e.l.		la a lal	1.1		10		⊐ Blending each letter ⊐ Whole word reading	
sank	wink	camp	held	gold	=	%	□ Other		
Exercise 5: Sta	ge 1 Target 4 (F	Refer to Stimulu	s Sheet 4)		Accura	асу	Reading S	Strategies Observed	
sport	away	never	spark	train		10		ng each letter	
faint	under	sharp	noise	enjoy	=	%	<ul><li>☐ Onset &amp; rime reading</li><li>☐ Whole word reading</li><li>☐ Other</li></ul>		
Exercise 6: Sta	ge 2 Phonic Co	<b>ncepts</b> (Refer to	o Stimulus Shee	t 5)				Accuracy	
strap	shrunk	splint	scrap	thirty	scream		tie		
nurse	toadstool	scorch	ground	pillow	knife		clue	/20	
Haroc	toddotooi	0001011	ground	ршот	Killie		orac		
slippers	saw	blew	dusty	flower	smoke			=%	
Exercise 7: Sta	ge 3 Phonic Co	ncepts (Refer to	Stimulus Shee	t 5)				Accuracy	
ignore	frighten	cringe	pledge	struggle	career	er	notion	,	
doubt	breakfast	actor	photograph	scratch	quench	cu	pboard	/20	
tasty	kidney	replace	beneath	anyone	parent			=%	
iasty	Riulley	теріасе	Delleatii	arryone	parent				
i.) Is the letter notice i.) Is phonic kno	ntions (suggesting aming (rather than wledge limiting do t experiencing diff	n alphabet sound ecoding/reading	ls) complicating d performance?		☐ Yes ☐ Yes	100%) ☐ No ☐ No ☐ No ☐ No	Notes		
, is the studell	capenending uni	y	e accounty:		169	,,			

## Stimulus Sheet 1 - VC Words

"Read the following words. They will gradually become more difficult. I will tell you when to stop."

Exercise 1: VC Words











17

tap pin sit hat kit net run Win gum

18

## Stimulus Sheet 3 - Stage 1 Target 2 Digraphs

Exercise 3: Stage 1 Target 2 Digraphs

shop chin that shed

rich rash thin thick

much them moon hook

feed weed luck took

queen shoot when quit

### Stimulus Sheet 4 - CCVC & CVCC Words

Exercise 4: Stage 1 Target 3 Digraphs

skip smell trip slip glad

sank wink camp held gold

### **Exercise 5: Stage 1 Target 4 Digraphs**

sport away never spark train

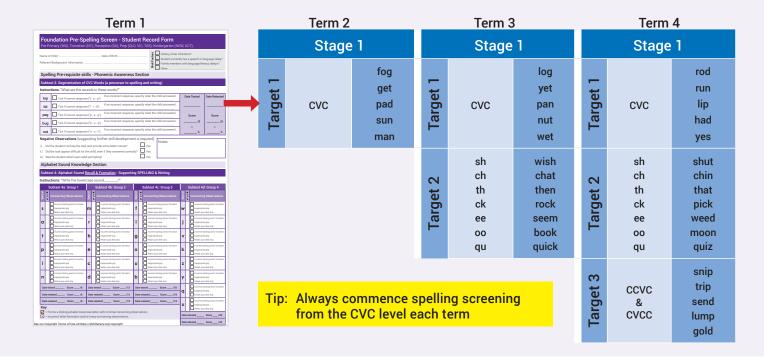
faint under sharp noise enjoy

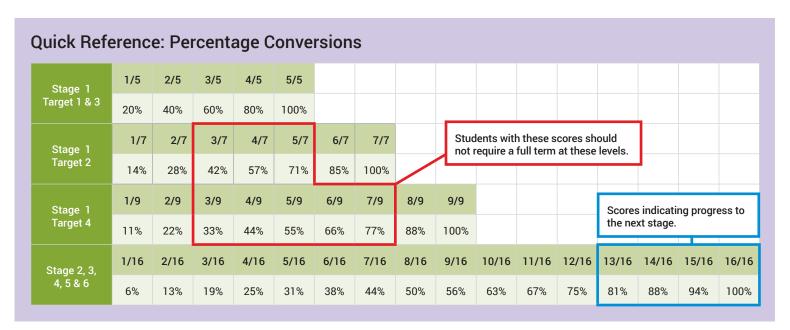
# Section 2

# Foundation Pre-Spelling & Spelling Screens

The Foundation
Pre-Spelling Screen tracks
the precursors of spelling (ie:
phonemic segmentation and
alphabet recall and formation).

**The Foundation Spelling Screens** are designed to track the emergence of spelling. The screens can be used to track skill development each term and to assist in planning of targeted teaching and allocation of spelling levels.



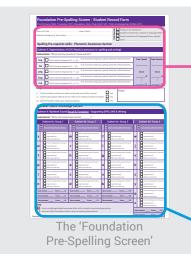


## Term 1: How to Conduct the Foundation Pre-Spelling Screen



#### Instructions for the Presentation of Subtest 3: Segmentation of CVC Words

- Explanation to the student: "I want you to tell me the sounds in these words. I don't want you to tell me the letter names. What are the sounds in...?"
- Remember that NO prompting is permitted in the test items.
- In the space provided, write exactly what the student verbalised.
- Note the occurence of any observable 'Negative Observations' (which indicate that further skill development is still required) even if the student scores 100%



#### Instructions for the Presentation of Subtest 4: Alphabet Sound Knowledge

- Remember that NO prompting is permitted in the test items.
- Remember to note the occurrence of any observable 'Concerning or Negative Observations' (which indicate that further skill development is still required) even if the student scores 100%.

#### **Teacher Instructions**

In an effort to be time efficient, it is recommended that this screen is presented to small groups of students, rather than individually to each student.

- "On your piece of paper, write the sound /s/." WAIT
  - Teacher to record any negative observations.
- "On your piece of paper, write the sound /t/." WAIT
- Teacher to record any negative observations.
- Repeat as you progress through subtests 4a, b, c & d.

#### Spelling Pre-requisite Skills - Phonemic Awareness Section

## Spelling Pre-requisite skills - Phonemic Awareness Section

#### Subtest 3: Segmentation of CVC Words (a precursor to spelling and writing)

Instruc	tions: "What are the sounds in the	se words?"		
top	Tick if correct response ("t - o - p").	If an incorrect response, specify what the child answered.	Date Tested	Date Reteste
lid	Tick if correct response ("I - i - d").	If an incorrect response, specify what the child answered.		
peg	Tick if correct response ("p - e - g").	If an incorrect response, specify what the child answered.	Score	Score
bug	Tick if correct response ("b - u - g").	If an incorrect response, specify what the child answered.	/5	/5
nut	Tick if correct response ("n - u - t").	If an incorrect response, specify what the child answered.	= 0/	= 0,

#### Negative Observations (suggesting further skill development is required)

)	Did the student confuse the task and provide some letter names?	Ye:
---	---	-----

- ii.) Did the task appear difficult for the child, even if they answered correctly?
- iii.) Was the student reliant upon adult prompting?

#### Alphabet & Phonic Recall and Formation (for spelling)

#### Alphabet Sound Knowledge Section

Subtest 4: Alphabet Sound Recall & Formation - Supporting SPELLING & Writing

Instructions: "Write the lowercase sound\_\_\_\_

		,	Subtest 4a: Group 1			Subtest 4b: Group 2			Subtest 4c: Group 3		9	Subtest 4d: Group 4
	Sound	<b>₹</b> or <b>*</b>	Concerning Observations	Sound	<b>₹</b> or <b>*</b>	Concerning Observations	Sound	<b>%</b> or <b>%</b>	Concerning Observations	Sound	<b>%</b> or <b>%</b>	Concerning Observations
7	s		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip	m		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip	f		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip	w		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip
	a		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip	r		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip	ı		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip	j		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip
	t		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip	h		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip	g		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip	٧		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip
	р		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip	е		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip	0		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip	k		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip
	i		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip	С		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip	U		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip	z		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip
	n		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip	d		☐ Incorrect starting points/ formation ☐ Inappropriate grip ☐ Reliant upon desk strip	b		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip	у		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip
		_	ested	┝	_	ested /12 etested /12	Н	_	ested /18  etested /18  Score /18	q		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip
	Ke	у	etested/6			etested /12			stested /18	х		Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip
			orms a distinguishable lower ncorrect letter formation and/			ter with minimal concerning o y concerning observations	bser	vat	ions	Dat	te re	etested Score/26
	our (	Cor	ovright Terms of Use at https	://p	ld-l	iteracy org/copyright				Dat	te re	etested /26

#### Sample Layout for Recording Student Results

. , ,	3				
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26				

	·		<b>ng Screen - Stuc</b> Reception (SA), Prep (Q					AC	CT),	
			Date of Birth:			Family me	ırrently h mbers w	as a ith I	speech or la	anguage delay? eracy delays?
Spe	lling Pre-requisite sk	ills -	Phonemic Awarenes	s Se	ction					
Sub	est 3: Segmentation of	CVC	Words (a precursor to s	pellin	g and	writing)				
Instru	uctions: "What are the so	ounds	in these words?"							
top	Tick if correct respons	se ("t - c	o - p"). If an incorrect respons		-		ed.	Dat	e Tested	Date Retested
lid	Tick if correct respons	se ("I - i	If an incorrect respons				ed.			
peg	Tick if correct respons	se ("p - 6	If an incorrect respons	e, spec	oify wha	at the child answere	ed.	;	Score	Score
bug			If an incorrect recoons	e, spec	cify wha	at the child answere	ed.		/5	/5
nut		`	If an incorrect respons	e, spe	cify wha	at the child answere	ed.		= %	= %
		-	g further skill developme						/6	
iii.) W	a the task appear difficult for as the student reliant upon adu nabet Sound Knowle	ult prom		ctiy?	☐ Ye					
		_		0	25111	NO 0 W ':				
			l & Formation - Support	ing Si	PELLI	NG & Writing				
	Instructions: "Write the lowercase sound?"									
		4 is par	t of the PLD screening sch	edule,	this da	ata is not required	to be a	dde	ed to the tra	acking sheets
			t of the PLD screening sch Subtest 4b: Group 2		Subt	ata is not required			Subtest 4d	
	Subtest 4a: Group 1 Concerning Observations	1 is par	t of the PLD screening school Subtest 4b: Group 2 Concerning Observations	punc	Subt	est 4c: Group 3	ns punos		Subtest 4c	d: <b>Group 4</b>
Pleas	Subtest 4a: Group 1  Concerning Observations  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip	punq or <b>x</b>	Subtest 4b: Group 2 Concerning Observations Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip		Subt	est 4c: Group 3 cerning Observatio correct starting points/ formal	ns punos	₹ or <b>*</b>	Concernin	d: Group 4 g Observations earting points/ formation tte grip
Pleas	Subtest 4a: Group 1  Concerning Observations  Incorrect starting points/ formation	Sound	Subtest 4b: Group 2 Concerning Observations Incorrect starting points/ formation	punos	Subt	est 4c: Group 3	ns punos	₹ or <b>*</b>	Concernin  Incorrect st Inappropria	d: Group 4 g Observations earting points/ formation tte grip
Pleas	Subtest 4a: Group 1  Concerning Observations  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip	Sound	Subtest 4b: Group 2 Concerning Observations Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip	punos	Subt Cone In	cerning Observatio correct starting points/ formal appropriate grip eliant upon desk strip	ns punos	₹ or <b>*</b>	Concernin  Incorrect st Inappropria Reliant upo Incorrect st Inappropria	d: Group 4 g Observations earting points/ formation the grip in desk strip earting points/ formation
Pleas punos S	Subtest 4a: Group 1  Concerning Observations  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip	m Sound	Subtest 4b: Group 2 Concerning Observations Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip	punos	Subt Cone In	est 4c: Group 3  cerning Observatio  correct starting points/ formation appropriate grip eliant upon desk strip  correct starting points/ formation appropriate grip	punos os station w	,	Concernin  Incorrect st Reliant upo Inappropria Reliant upo	d: Group 4  g Observations  tarting points/ formation the grip In desk strip Iterating points/ formation the grip In desk strip Iterating points/ formation the grip Iterating points/ formation Itera
Pleas punos S	Subtest 4a: Group 1  Concerning Observations  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip  Reliant upon desk strip  Reliant upon desk strip  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip	punos m	Subtest 4b: Group 2  Concerning Observations  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip	punoS	Subt Cons In I	cerning Observation correct starting points/ format appropriate gripeliant upon desk strip correct starting points/ format appropriate gripeliant upon desk strip correct starting points/ format appropriate gripeliant upon desk strip correct starting points/ format appropriate grip	pungs station water years with the station water	* io >	Concernin  Incorrect st Inappropria Reliant upo Incorrect st	d: Group 4  g Observations  arting points/ formation atte grip and desk strip arting points/ formation atte grip and desk strip arting points/ formation atte grip arting points/ formation atte grip and desk strip arting points/ formation arting points/ formation
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Please  punos  s  a  t  p  Date  Date  Date  Key	Subtest 4a: Group 1  Concerning Observations  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip  Reliant upon desk strip  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip  Reliant upon desk strip  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip  Reliant upon desk strip  tested Score /6  retested Score /6	m r h e C Date 1 Date 1	Subtest 4b: Group 2  Concerning Observations  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip  Incorrect starting points/ formation Inappropriate grip Reliant upon desk strip  Reliant upon desk strip  tested	f I G Date Date	Subt Conn In I	cerning Observation  correct starting points/ format appropriate grip eliant upon desk strip correct starting points/ format appropriate grip eliant upon desk strip correct starting points/ format appropriate grip eliant upon desk strip correct starting points/ format appropriate grip eliant upon desk strip correct starting points/ format appropriate grip eliant upon desk strip correct starting points/ format appropriate grip eliant upon desk strip correct starting points/ format appropriate grip eliant upon desk strip correct starting points/ format appropriate grip eliant upon desk strip  Score	pungs station was	* io >	Concernin  Incorrect st Inappropria Reliant upo Incorrect st Inappropria	d: Group 4  g Observations  arting points/ formation atte grip and desk strip  arting points/ formation atte grip and desk strip  arting points/ formation atte grip and desk strip  arting points/ formation atte grip and desk strip

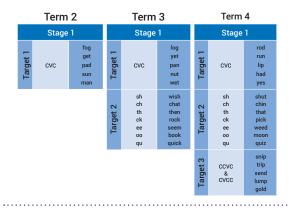
# Term 2, 3 & 4: How to Conduct and Mark the Foundation Spelling Screens



#### **Materials Required:**



Coloured Pen (for teacher) Writing Pencil (for students)



Spelling Test Words for Foundation Students



Student Record Form

#### Preparation:

- Duplicate the student spelling template for each student.
- It is recommended that the spelling test is presented to students arranged in small groups.
- Explanation to student "We are going to complete a spelling activity. The words will gradually become more difficult. Let's get started. Listen carefully to the words I am asking you to spell and do your best."

#### Instructions:

- "Word number 1 is ..... [place it in a sentence]. Write the word ...."
- · Repeat the process for each word in the sections.

#### Discontinue Rule:

Continue to spell the words until the student makes five consecutive errors or if the student is visibly fatiguing or reluctant to continue. Ideally keep testing at least up until the recommended targets for each term.

#### Marking & Scoring the Reading Test Items:

FAQ's	Response	Test Examples
Do I mark the word correct when the student reverses letters?	Letter reversals are a common occurrence in the first year of learning to spell and write. Repeated practice forming letters (and particularly letters subject to frequent reversals) is needed with an emphasis on starting points and verbal cues.	STIP
What happens when the student reverses a 'b' or 'd'?	When the word 'rod' is spelled 'rob' (with a reversal of a d) technically this is an error. However, within the first year of learning to spell, such errors are common and a degree of flexibility can be shown in this initial period of screening.	Suggestion: Focus on these letters reinforcing starting points and verbal cues.
Do I mark the word correct when the student uses capital letters?	When students write their spelling words with some (or all) upper-case letters, this reflects a handwriting weakness and not a spelling issue. This observation signals the need for intensive lower-case letter formation skill development.	Shu T✓ ✓ Test word: 'shut'
Do I mark the word correct when the student writes the correct phonic pattern, but other letters in the test word are incorrect?	No! Spelling test words are only marked correct, if they have been spelled correctly. If the target phonic pattern is correct, but other errors exist within the word, then technically the word should still be marked incorrect. Including the phonic pattern means that the concept is emerging but it definately has not been mastered and is not ready for transference into writing.	Yishx Machx ★ Test words: 'wish' and 'much'
Do I mark the word correct when the student gets the middle letter (typically the vowel) incorrect?	It is common for students who had ear infections, who present with language delays or for whom English is not a first language to experience difficulties with medial vowels e.g. a/u or i/e. This observation signals the need for targeted teaching in the area. Keep in mind, within Stage 1 Target 2 and 3, additional medial vowel practice will occur.	Test word: 'luck'

# Term 2, 3 & 4: Phonic-Based Spelling Screens

**Term 2 Spelling Screening** 

CVC

ch

th

ck

ee

qu

CCVC

CVCC

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or

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all

ai

er

oi oy

Target 1

Stage 1

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10 11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

fog

get

pad

sun

man

shop

much

with

luck keep

hook

queen

flag

glad

soft

pond

bank

today

cling

port

march

stall

brain

winter

joint

boy



The Term 2, 3 & 4 spelling screens are scheduled through the presentation of the following spelling placement screens. Instructions and preparation has been outlined on page 24.

#### Tip:

Always commence spelling screening from the CVC level each term

# Sample Student

Record Form		
	Stage 1, Target 1: C\	/C Words
1	2	3
4	5	Notes  Letter reversal
		Medial vowel difficulties
		Other observations
Score: /5%	*Option: provide additional words th	en convert into a percentage.
	Stage 1, Target 1: C\	/C Words
1	2	3
4	5	Notes
		Letter reversal  Medial vowel difficulties
		Other observations
Score: /5%	*Option: provide additional words th	en convert into a percentage.
	Stage 1, Target 2: Early St	age 1 Phonics
6	7	8
9	10	11
12		
	Notes/Phonic concepts rec	uuiring instruction.
Score: /7%	*Option: provide additional words th	en convert into a percentage.

#### **Term 3 Spelling Screening**

	St	age ˈ	1
Target 1	CVC	1 2 3 4 5	log yet pan nut wet
Target 2	sh ch th ck ee oo qu	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	wish chat then rock seem book quick
Target 3	CCVC & CVCC	13 14 15 16 17	skip grin mint hold crash
Target 4	ay ing or ar all ai er oi	18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	stay sting torch smart ball snail number join toy

#### **Term 4 Spelling Screening**

ren	Term 4 Spelling Screening								
	St	age ˈ	1						
Target 1	cvc	1 2 3 4 5	rod run lip had yes						
Target 2	sh ch th ck ee oo qu	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	shut chin that pick weed moon quiz						
Target 3	CCVC & CVCC	13 14 15 16 17	snip trip send lump gold						
Target 4	ay ing or ar all ai er oi	18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	clay bring sport start small chain under point joy						

-		
	Stage 1, Target 1: CVC Words	
1	2	3
4	5	Notes
		Letter reversal
		Medial vowel difficulties
		Other observations
Score: /5%	*Option: provide additional words then convert into a	percentage.
	Stage 1, Target 2: Early Stage 1 Phoni	cs
6	7	8
9	10	11
12		
	Notes/Phonic concepts requiring instruc	tion.
Score: /7%	*Option: provide additional words then convert into a	percentage.
	Stage 1, Target 3: CCVC + CVCC Word	
13	14	15
l		
16	17	Notes
		Letter reversal
l		Medial vowel difficulties
		Other observations
Score: /5%	*Option: provide additional words then convert into a	percentage.
300/c. /3		

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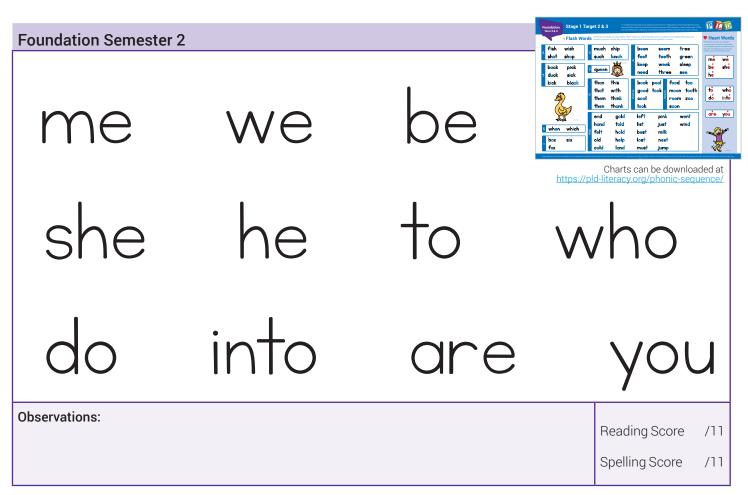
Name:			Term:				
			Stage 1, Target 1: CVC Words				
1			2	3			
4			5	Notes  Letter reversal  Medial vowel difficulties  Other observations			
Score:	/5	%	*Option: provide additional words then convert into a percentage.				
			Stage 1, Target 2: Early Stage 1 Phonics				
6			7	8			
9			10	11			
12							
Score:	/7	%	Notes/Phonic concepts requiring instruction. *Option: provide additional words then convert into a percentage.				
000.0.	, .	***************************************					
00010.	,,		Stage 1, Target 3: CCVC + CVCC Word:	s			
13			Stage 1, Target 3: CCVC + CVCC Words 14	15			
13	/5	%	17 *Option: provide additional words then convert into a p	Notes Letter reversal Medial vowel difficulties Other observations  ercentage.			
13		%	17  *Option: provide additional words then convert into a p  Stage 1, Target 4: Late Stage 1 Phonic	Notes Letter reversal Medial vowel difficulties Other observations  ercentage.			
13		%	17 *Option: provide additional words then convert into a p	Notes Letter reversal Medial vowel difficulties Other observations  ercentage.			
13  16  Score:		%	17  *Option: provide additional words then convert into a p  Stage 1, Target 4: Late Stage 1 Phonic	Notes Letter reversal Medial vowel difficulties Other observations ercentage.			
13 Score:		%	*Option: provide additional words then convert into a p Stage 1, Target 4: Late Stage 1 Phonic	Notes Letter reversal Medial vowel difficulties Other observations  ercentage.  23			

# Term 2, 3 & 4: Screening the Reading & Spelling of Irregular High Frequency Words - Optional



Review Semester 1 & 2 irregular high frequency word knowledge through the presentation of the screens below. This check <u>could</u> be presented in Week 10 of Terms 2 & 4. For more information see the outline located on page 6.

Foundation S	Semeste	Flash Words  Flash Words  an at learn words  an at			
a	Ι	is	his	as	cot sad pet men and cot sa
has	5	of	for	was	https://pld-literacy.org/phonic-sequence/
Observations:					Reading Score /10 Spelling Score /10



## **Glossary of Terms**

**Synthetic Phonics** - is a way of teaching children to read and spell. It has been identified as the most successful approach to establishing early literacy skills. The 'synthetic' component relates to the 'synthesising' or blending of phonemes (or individual speech sounds) and the 'phonic' component relates to written symbols (graphemes) being linked to the individual speech sounds (phonemes).

**Phonological Awareness -** the ability to think about, reflect on and manipulate the sound structures of spoken language (including alliteration, rhyme, syllables and sounds).

**Phonemic Awareness -** the ability to identify and manipulate individual sounds within spoken words. A sub-skill of phonological awareness.

**Phonemes -** are the smallest unit of speech sounds contained within words. For example the word teeth, has three phonemes: t/ee/th. It is generally agreed that there are approximately 44 sounds that make up the English language. As there are only 26 letters in the alphabet some letters need to be combined to represent the remaining speech sounds.

A Digraph - is when two successive letters represent a single speech sound (or phoneme). Digraphs occur as vowels and consonants.

- Common consonant digraphs include: sh (as in ship), ch (as in chop), wh (as in when), th (as in think) and th (as in then).
- Common vowel digraphs include: ai (as in rain), ea (as in leaf), oo (as in broom) and oo (as in look).

**Graphemes -** are the letters and groups of letters that represent phonemes (or individual speech sounds).

**R-Controlled Vowels -** When the letter 'r' follows a vowel, it makes it change it's sound. This is why it is commonly called an r-controlled vowel or a "Bossy R" E.g. a + r = "ar" u + r = "er".



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