**Administration of Dolch 220 Sight Words**

**Purpose:** The **Dolch word list** includes the most common 220 words and 95 nouns encountered in children’s books. Dolch words, or sight words, are critical in early reading development because they represent high-frequency words and are difficult to sound out or to illustrate. This is a good screening instrument for possible reading issues.

**Testing Environment:** Private room 1:1 administration

**Time**: 15-20 minutes

**Grades:** K-6

**Materials:** Dolch Word Lists, Scoring sheets, pen/pencil

**Administration:** Start with the student’s grade level word list. Simply point to the word on the list and put a “+” in the square on the form if the student was able to say the word.

If the student hesitates for more than 3 seconds before providing the word, sounds out the word, or provides an incorrect word, put a “-” in the square.

 If the student identifies less than half the words on a given list backup to the prior grade levels until the student can say all the words in the list. If the student pronounces all 20 words correct move to the next level. When the assessment is completed, count the number of correct words and record the date and the number of words on the progress summary form.

**Results:** The list in which the student can recite all words correctly will give you a “quick and dirty” place to start the rest of the reading assessments. For example, a 5th grader who pronounces the first 175 words correctly but then begins to make multiple mistakes, hesitates or makes up words is probably functioning at a 2nd grade reading level or even lower. To administer assessments that would be at grade level would be extremely frustrating and demoralizing for the student. In an individualized testing, situation you have the capability to provide assessments that the student can be successful in, building confidence as you ratchet up the difficulty of the assessment to find the true level the student is functioning at in the classroom. This will be further explained in the reading section. When the assessment is completed, count the number of correct words and record the date and the number of words on the progress summary form.

All Dolch word list activities are free to copy courtesy of <http://www.k12reader.com/worksheet/>.

For older students, you may prefer to have the student read a story that contains all 100 Dolch words. This is reprinted with permission of: <http://www.mrsperkins.com/resources.html#lists>. A color coded version is available to show the different levels of the words.

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