



BEGINNING READING SKILLS

Reading research has identified a number of indicator skills that predict reading success. Beginning reading skills are not only essential prerequisites for phonics and fluent reading, but also for spelling, vocabulary, comprehension and higher order thinking. The following examples can be used to determine whether a student may need to practice these skills. This can be done on an independent basis or you may contact the Sage Learning Center to discuss a program for your child.

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Language Skills

- Rapidly name objects (nouns) in the room. Fluency is 50-60 objects per minute.
- Rapidly name items in categories (i.e. animals, toys, fruits, etc.). Fluency is 40-50 per minute.
- Follow a 4-5 step spoken direction without reminders.
- Explain events in a correct sequence (movies they have seen or stories they have heard). Have the student list as many details as possible and try to reach at least 30 main ideas per minute.

Visual Skills

- Identify and match shapes, pictures, letters or numbers.
- Name shapes and colors.
- Rapidly read letter names in random order from left to right. Aim for 100-120 letters per minute.
- Find objects in a picture (*I Spy* books or any picture book). Fluency is 60 objects per minute.

Auditory Skills

- Rhyme words. You say “bay” and he/she says “say, day, may, tay, lay” etc. Practice with nursery rhymes and songs. Aim for 40 rhymes per minute.
- Segment sounds. You say a word, he/she says the word and claps while saying each phoneme/sound in the word separately in sequence, (i.e. you say “bat”, he/she says /b/ /a/ /t/ * and claps with each sound, in this case three claps). Each clap counts as one and fluency is 40-60 sounds per minute.
- Blend sounds. You say the sounds in a word slowly at a rate of one per second. He/she blends them together to form the word (i.e. you say /b/ /a/ /t/ *, he/she says “bat”). Count each word and set an aim at 10-15 words per minute.
- Make new words by substituting one sound for another (i.e. say “change the /h/* in “hot” to /p/*). He/she says then says the word “pot”). Fluency is 20-30 correct changes per minute.

* // is the symbol to say a sound/phoneme rather than a letter name.