

Running Records

Instructions for teacher / test administrator

- Choose a book that you THINK might be at the child's level. Make sure that the subject matter is meaningful to the child.
- Choose a section from the text and photocopy it for your own use.
- Sit next to the child while the child reads the book.
- Mark your own photocopied text using a tick for each word the child reads correctly, and underline each word that is unknown or incorrect. Also mark in any words that are left out or wrongly added. Also mark self corrections.
- At the end of the passage, ask the child to retell the story, or asks some questions in order to test comprehension.

Example of test administrator's record

Student's Name Matt Jones Date 1/28/02
 Have the student read out loud as you record. Assessed by B. Cas

page	E = errors M = meaning S-C = self-correction S = structure V = visual	E	S-C
3	✓ ✓ ✓ <i>of/sc</i> ✓ ✓ The wheel comes off the truck.		1
4	✓ ✓ ✓ It rolls down the hill. ✓ ✓ Faster and faster.		
5	✓ ✓ <i>went/goes</i> ✓ ✓ ✓ The wheel rolls through the field. ✓ ✓ <i>p/v</i> ✓ It rolls past the cows. ✓ Faster and faster.	1	
6	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ The wheel rolls through the barn. <i>farm</i> ✓ ✓ <i>TA</i> It rolls [past the chickens.] ✓ Faster and faster.	1	
7	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ The wheel rolls toward the river. <i>Rz water</i> ✓ ✓ ✓ <i>T</i> It rolls over the bridge. ✓ Faster and faster.	1	
8	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ The wheel rolls into the school. <i>in/sc</i> ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ It rolls out <i>of</i> the door. ✓ ✓ Faster and faster. ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ The wheel rolls through the town. <i>R</i>	1	1
9	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ It rolls past the policeman. <i>P/R</i> ✓ ✓ Faster and faster.		
10	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ The wheel rolls into the garage. <i>T</i> ✓ ✓ It stops rolling. ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ The wheel is on the truck. <i>traok/sc</i>	1	
Totals		8	3

Words: 99 Errors: 8
Accuracy rate: 92%

Scoring

- The aim is to find out the percentage of words read correctly.
- If there are 99 words in the passage, and the child makes 8 errors, then his score is 91 out of 99.
- Convert this to a percentage: 92%
- “Self-corrections” are not marked as errors.

How to use the test results

- **Independent level** – 100% accuracy. A good level to use for take-home books.
- **Instructional level** – 95% accuracy with good comprehension. Use these books in guided reading sessions.
- **Frustration level** - less than 95% accuracy and poor comprehension. This book is too hard for the child.

Analyzing the types of errors:

The actual text	The child's reading effort
The wheel comes of the truck.	Self corrected to 'off' (SC)
The wheel rolls through the field.	The wheel went through the field.
The wheel rolls through the barn .	The wheel rolls through the farm .
The wheel rolls towards the river .	The wheel rolls towards the water .
It rolls out the door.	It rolls out of the door.
The wheel is on the track .	The wheel is on the truck .

This child uses meaning to work out unfamiliar words, but makes little use of phonics.

Summary: Role of the teacher / test administrator

- Record the number of errors.
- Record the number of self-corrections. (This helps you assess fluency and word attack skills.)
- Calculate the percentage of errors.
- Ask a few questions about the text to test comprehension.
- Make some comments such as degree of fluency, expression and comprehension.
- Comment on strengths/weaknesses in phonics, sight reading and ability to use meaning cues.