

Letter Names Test

Along with phonological awareness, the best indicator of how well students will do in a formal reading program is letter knowledge. Letter knowledge can be assessed in two major ways: identification or recognition. Letter identification requires that students name the letters they are shown. Letter recognition is somewhat easier. Given a choice of two or more letters, students point to the letter named by the teacher.

Letter Names is an individual letter identification test. After putting the child at ease, explain the purpose of the test. Say, “I want to see how many letters you know, so that I can plan lessons to help you become a good reader. Don’t worry if you don’t know the names of all the letters. Just name as many as you can.” Place a ruler or other marker under the first row. Pointing to the first letter, say, “Tell me the name of the letter that I point to. If you don’t know the name of a letter, say, ‘I don’t know the name of that letter.’ ” If the student does not respond within ten seconds, move on to the next letter. Then say, “Let’s try this one.”

Record the student’s performance on a separate copy of the test. For incorrect responses, cross out the target letter and record the student’s response. If the student does not attempt to name the letter or says that he or she does not know it, simply cross out the letter. If the student says the sound of the letter instead of the name, make a note of that and say, “You told me the sound of the letter. Can you tell me the name of the letter?” (Saying the sound of the letter indicates knowledge of letter-sound correspondences.) As students name the letters, note the ease and speed with which they do so. A smooth, rapid naming indicates that the letters have been thoroughly learned.

Interpretation: For pre-K, spring administration and kindergarten fall administration, the expected standard is ten or more upper- and lower-case letters. By end of K, students are expected to know all 26 upper- and lower-case letters.

Letter Names Test

Name _____ Date _____

Uppercase ___/26 Lowercase ___/26

A S M B X R

G W H T E P

K N Z C I D

L F J Q U Y

V O

a s m b x r

g w h t e p

k n z c i d

l f j q u y

v o