

Screening & Tracking Manual

Early Years

Kindergarten (WA, QLD, SA, TAS)
Preschool (ACT, NT, NSW, VIC)

What to
screen?

When to
screen?

How to
screen?

How to report
on data?



**PRIMARY
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2026 Version

How to Use the Early Years Screening & Tracking Manual

What is Included in this Early Years Screening & Tracking Manual?	3
How to Monitor Progress with PLD?	3
How to Get Started with PLD's Screening & Tracking?.....	3
Using the PLD Tracking Sheets in the Early Years	4
Overview of the Early Years Literacy Assessment	5
When to Schedule PLD's Early Years Screening	6

Targeting Literacy Over the Full Year

How to Conduct PLD's Pre-Literacy Screening

Phonological and Phonemic Awareness Subtests

Term 1 Syllable Segmentation (phonological awareness) Instructions & Test Items	8
Term 2 Initial Sound Awareness (phonemic awareness) Instructions & Test Items	9
Term 3 Onset and Rime Blending (phonological awareness).....	10
Term 4 Lending 3 Sounds (phonemic awareness) Instructions & Test Items	10

Alphabet Sound Recall (phonics)

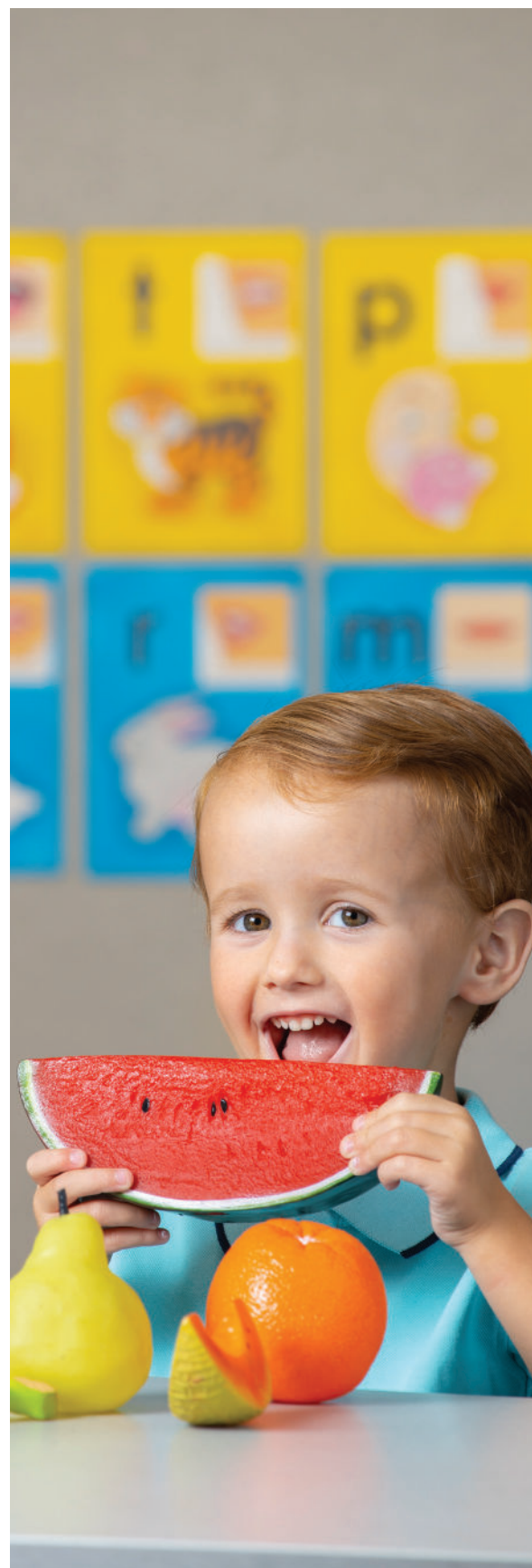
Term 3 Lower-case Group 1 & 2 Alphabet Sound Recall	11
Term 4 Lower-case Group 1, 2 & 3 Alphabet Sound Recall (phonics) Instructions & Test Items	11

Lower-Case Letter Formation (handwriting)

Term 3 Lower-case Group 1 Alphabet Sound Recall & Formation.....	12
Term 4 Lower-case Group 2 Alphabet Sound Recall & Formation Test Items	12

Appendix

Early Years Pre-Literacy Screen (to be duplicated for each child).....	13 - 17
Glossary of Terms	18



What is Included in This Early Years Screening & Tracking Manual?

The Early Years Screening & Tracking Manual outlines step-by-step instructions for teachers that include what and when to screen, the materials required and time allocations.

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 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.

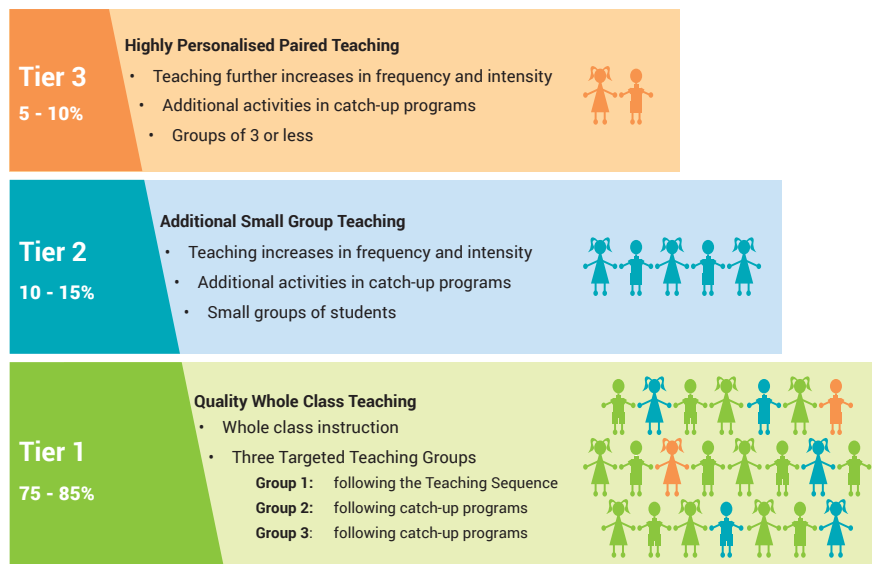
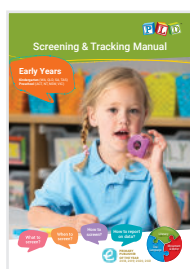
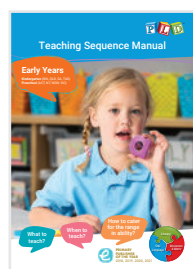
How to Monitor Progress with PLD?

PLD provides free-to-download [Early Years to Year 6 Tracking Sheets](#). It is recommended that each class implementing PLD programs and screening take the next step to report on their implementation through use of the tracking sheets. The results from the paper based screening tools are recorded in individual tracking sheets. An instructional video for setting up the tracking sheets is located at: <https://pld-literacy.org/foundation-getting-started-with-pld/>

How to Identify Students Who Are Delayed or Advanced?

PLD recognises that every class presents with a range in ability. It is expected that with the delivery of effective repeated targeted instruction the majority of students should acquire skills as outlined within the [Teaching Sequence Manual](#). However, it is also likely that there will be a small group of students who may advance faster than the schedule of skills and also a group that may lag behind in skill acquisition. In an effort to cater for the range in ability, it is recommended that each class implementing PLD identifies (on the basis of the screening) three targeted teaching groups. An instructional video for utilising the tracking sheets to establish three targeted teaching groups is located at: <https://pld-literacy.org/early-years-getting-started-with-pld/>

PLD's [Early Years Teaching Sequence Manual](#) applied in conjunction with this Early Years Screening & Tracking Manual and consistent tracking 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 [Pre-literacy in the early years online course](#).
- Step 2: Download the [Early Years Teaching Sequence Manual](#).
- Step 3: Download this Early Years 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 [Early Years Teaching Sequence Manual](#) for where to start teaching and this Screening & Tracking Manual for details on your first progress check.

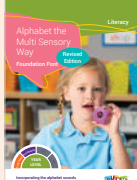
Scan here for
Early Years Resources



PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS	Term 1	Phonological Awareness Skill 1: Syllable Blending & Segmentation Two and three syllable words	Explicit Instruction Over Weeks 1-10 of Term 1, teach the skill of syllable blending & segmentation. This will consist of whole class and small group work. Typically, children require three or four three minute instruction sessions each day. Progress Check In Week 6, review skill development with the presentation of Subtest 1 in the Early Years Pre-Literacy Screen.	Catering for the Range in Ability Using the data collected, establish three targeted teaching groups and schedule small group sessions with a more specific focus. - For the children who have acquired the skill (i.e. 80-100%), continue to consolidate and/or progress to next skill. - For the children who have not yet acquired the skill, regular short targeted sessions are a priority.	Vocabulary & Syllable Time: Set 1 - Code: Vst1 Set 2 - Code: Vst2
	Term 2	Phonological Awareness Skill 2: Initial Sound Awareness - Continuant Sound Awareness - Stop Sound Awareness	Explicit Instruction Over Weeks 1-10 of Term 2, teach the skill of initial continuant sounds ("SSSSun starts with a ... ?") and initial stop sounds ("Table starts with a ..?"). Typically students require three or four instruction sessions each day. This should be delivered to the whole group and within small group rotations.	Progress Check In Week 6, following the intensive instruction period, review skill development through the presentation of Subtest 2 in the Early Years Pre-Literacy Screen. Catering for the Range in Ability Using the data collected, adjust the targeted teaching groups. For the children (i.e. 80-100%) who have acquired the skill, continue to consolidate and progress to next skills. For children who have not acquired the skill, targeted sessions will be required.	Preparing for the Alphabet: Code: CCpfa
	Term 3	Phonological Awareness Skill 3: Blending Onset and Rime Blending	Explicit Instruction Over Weeks 1-10 in Term 3, schedule regular whole group and small group onset and rime blending instruction sessions. Blending tasks can take as little as two minutes. It is recommended that a minimum of three to four sessions are scheduled each day, in addition to whole class and small group teaching time.	Progress Check In Week 6, review blending onset and rime skills through the presentation of Subtest 3 in the Early Years Pre-Literacy Screen. Catering for the Range in Ability Using the data collected, refine the three ability groups and schedule small group targeted sessions. For the children who have acquired the skill (i.e. 80-100%) continue to consolidate and move to next skill. For children who are having difficulty, schedule regular short targeted onset and rime blending sessions.	Learning to Blend Onset and Rime: Code: L2B1 Preparing for Reading: Code: CCpfr
	Term 4	Phonemic Awareness Skill 3: Blending Three Phoneme Blending	Explicit Instruction Over Weeks 1-10 in Term 4, schedule regular whole group and small group blending three phoneme instruction sessions. Blending tasks can take as little as two minutes. It is recommended that a minimum of three to four sessions are scheduled each day, in addition to whole class and small group teaching time.	Progress Check In Week 6, review three phoneme blending skills through the presentation of Subtest 3 in the Early Years Pre-Literacy Screen. Catering for the Range in Ability Using the data collected, refine the three ability groups and schedule small group targeted sessions. - For the children who have acquired the skill (i.e. 80-100%) continue to consolidate and move to next skill. - For children who are having difficulty, schedule regular short targeted onset and rime blending sessions.	Learning to Blend Three Phonemes: Code: L2B2

ALPHABET	Term 2	Term 2 Teach Group 1: s, a, t, p, i, n	Alphabet Sound Knowledge (lower-case letter focus) <i>Alphabet Sound Recall (for reading) & Alphabet Formation (for spelling)</i>	Alphabet the Multi Sensory Way Code: Ccal/Ccalc
	Term 3	Term 3: - Revise Group 1 - Teach Group 2: c, h, e, r, m, d	Explicit Instruction Over a six week block, teach the six alphabet sounds from the teaching sequence. Typically, children require four three minute instruction sessions each day. It is important to also integrate corresponding letter formation while learning these sounds. So when learning to recognise the sounds, children are simultaneously learning to write the sounds.	Letter Formation for Little People Code: Miff
	Term 4	Term 4: - Revise Group 1 & Group 2 - Teach Group 3: g, o, u, l, f, b	Progress Check In week 6, remember to screen alphabet knowledge using the relevant Subtests in the Early Years Pre-Literacy Screen. Catering for the Range in Ability Using the data collected, adjust the ability groups for the children who have acquired the sounds (and are ready to progress). For the children who are not acquiring alphabet sounds at the pace of their peers, schedule regular targeted sessions.	



Teaching Phases Weeks 1-10		Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
		Explicit Teaching Phase   Set 1 - Code: Vst1 Set 2 - Code: Vst2	Explicit Teaching Phase   Code: CCpfa Code: Ccal/Ccalc	Explicit Teaching Phase Code: Ccal/Ccalc Code: L2B1   Code: Miff	Explicit Teaching Phase Code: Ccal/Ccalc Code: L2B2   Code: Miff
Midterm screen e.g. by the end of Week 6		One minute progress check screen Term 1: - Syllable Segmentation. Reporting - Populate tracking sheet with student results. - Cluster class into three targeted teaching groups and set differentiated learning foci for the remainder of term.	Short progress check screens Term 2: - Verbalisation of Initial Phoneme. - Group 1 Alphabet Sounds /6. - Group 1 of Alphabet Sounds Recall & Formation /6. Reporting - Populate tracking sheet with student results. - Cluster class into three targeted teaching groups and set differentiated learning foci for the remainder of term.	Short progress check screens Term 3: - Onset & Rime Blending. - Group 1 & 2 Alphabet Sounds /12. - Group 1 & 2 Alphabet Sounds Recall & Formation /12. Reporting - Populate tracking sheet with student results. - Cluster class into three targeted teaching groups and set differentiated learning foci for the remainder of term.	Short progress check screens Term 4: - Onset & Rime Blending & Blending Three Phonemes. - Group 1, 2 & 3 Alphabet Sounds /18. - Group 1, 2 & 3 Alphabet Sounds Recall & Formation /18. Reporting - Populate tracking sheet with student results. - Cluster class into three targeted teaching groups and set differentiated learning foci for the remainder of term.
Final week of term e.g. Week 10		For children who scored below 80% in their mid-term progress check: Repeat the relevant subtest (as above). Reporting - Populate tracking sheet with student results. - Cluster class into three targeted teaching groups and set differentiated learning foci for Term 2. <i>Following small group targeted teaching in Weeks 7 to 10, children will typically show increases in skill acquisition between the midterm and end of term screens.</i>	For children who scored below 80% in their mid-term progress check: Repeat the relevant subtest (as above). Reporting - Populate tracking sheet with student results. - Cluster class into three targeted teaching groups and set differentiated learning foci for Term 3. <i>Following small group targeted teaching in Weeks 7 to 10, children will typically show increases in skill acquisition between the midterm and end of term screens.</i>	For children who scored below 80% in their mid-term progress checks: Repeat the relevant subtests (as above). Reporting - Populate tracking sheet with student results. - Cluster class into three targeted teaching groups and set differentiated learning foci for Term 4. <i>Following small group targeted teaching in Weeks 7 to 10, children will typically show increases in skill acquisition between the midterm and end of term screens.</i>	For children who scored below 80% in their mid-term progress checks: Repeat the relevant subtests (as above). Reporting Populate tracking sheet with student results. <i>Following small group targeted teaching in Weeks 7 to 10, children will typically show increases in skill acquisition between the midterm and end of term screens.</i> Prepare student tests for handover to next year's teacher.



The **Early Years Pre-Literacy Screens** have been designed to profile the acquisition of core literacy precursor skills that will impact later reading, spelling and phonic development. The screens focus on two main skills:

- 1. Phonological Awareness:** the ability to attend to the phonological structure or sound structure of words.
- 2. Alphabetic Knowledge:** or more specifically letter-sound identification and the ability to recall and form the alphabet sounds.

Both skills have been identified in education, speech pathology, educational psychology and dyslexia research as predictors of success and difficulties in reading performance.

Materials Required:



Coloured pen

Preparation:

Duplicate the Student Record Form located on pages 8 - 20 for each child. Write the name of each student on the record form. Add the date of the testing, year level and who the screen is being administered by.

Estimated Time Allocations:

Term 1: Syllable Segmentation. (One minute when presented individually).

Term 2:

- Verbalisation of Initial Phoneme (one minute when presented individually)
- Group 1 Alphabet Sounds (one minute when presented individually)
- Group 1 Alphabet Recall and Formation (present to a group)

Term 3:

- Blending Onset & Rime (one minute when presented individually)
- Group 1 & 2 Alphabet Sounds (one minute when presented individually)
- Group 1 & 2 Alphabet Recall and Formation (present to a group)

Term 4:

- Blending Three Phonemes (one minute when presented individually)
- Group 1, 2 & 3 Alphabet Sounds (one minute when presented individually)
- Group 1, 2 & 3 Alphabet Recall and Formation (present to a group)

Term 1: Syllable Segmentation

(Phonological Awareness)



Instructions: Syllable Segmentation

- Explanation to the student: "We have been doing a lot of work on this over the last month and a half. Now it is your turn to show me what you have been learning." [Stimulus sheet 1] (Point to the picture) "Elephant. What are the beats (or syllables) in the word 'elephant'?"
- Remember that NO prompting is permitted in the test items.
- In the space provided, write exactly 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%.
- For the children who have acquired the skill (i.e. 80-100%), continue to consolidate and/or progress to the next skill. For the children who have almost demonstrated the skill (i.e. 40-60%), schedule further practice. The children who have not yet acquired the skill (i.e. 0-20%) regular short targeted sessions are a priority.

Remember to enter the results into the PLD Tracking Sheets.

Name of Student: Date Tested: ☐ Week 6 Term 1 ☐ other:.....
☐ Week 10 Term 1 ☐ other:.....

Phonological Awareness Section

Subtest 1: Syllable Segmentation (Stimulus Sheet 1)

Instructions: "What are the beats (or syllables) in _____?" [point to the picture]			Date Tested	Date Retested
Test Item	Syllables	Syllables Verbalised by Student	✓ ✗ Demonstrated	✓ ✗ Demonstrated
elephant	3 syllables		☐	☐
camel	2 syllables		☐	☐
zebra	2 syllables		☐	☐
octopus	3 syllables		☐	☐
butterfly	3 syllables		☐	☐
Results:			___ /5 = ___ %	___ /5 = ___ %

Syllable Segmentation "What are the beats (or syllables) in _____?" [point to the picture]



Term 2: Initial Sound Awareness (Phonemic Awareness)



Instructions:

- Explanation to the student: "We have been doing a lot of work on this over the last month and a half. Now it is your turn to show me what you have been learning." (Point to the picture) "What sound does fish start with?"
- In the space provided, write exactly 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%. If the student requires the adult to emphasise the initial phoneme in any way, or uses letter names rather than sounds, then the skill has not been sufficiently developed.
- For the children who have acquired the skill (i.e. 80-100%), continue to consolidate and/or progress to the next skill. For the children who have almost demonstrated the skill (i.e. 40-60%), schedule further practice. The children who have not yet acquired the skill (i.e. 0-20%) regular short targeted sessions are a priority.

Remember to enter the results into the PLD Tracking Sheets.

Name of Student: Date Tested: ☐ Week 6 Term 2 ☐ other:.....
☐ Week 10 Term 2 ☐ other:.....

Phonological Awareness Section

Subtest 2: Verbalisation of Initial Phoneme (A precursor to alphabet sounds.) (Stimulus Sheet 1)

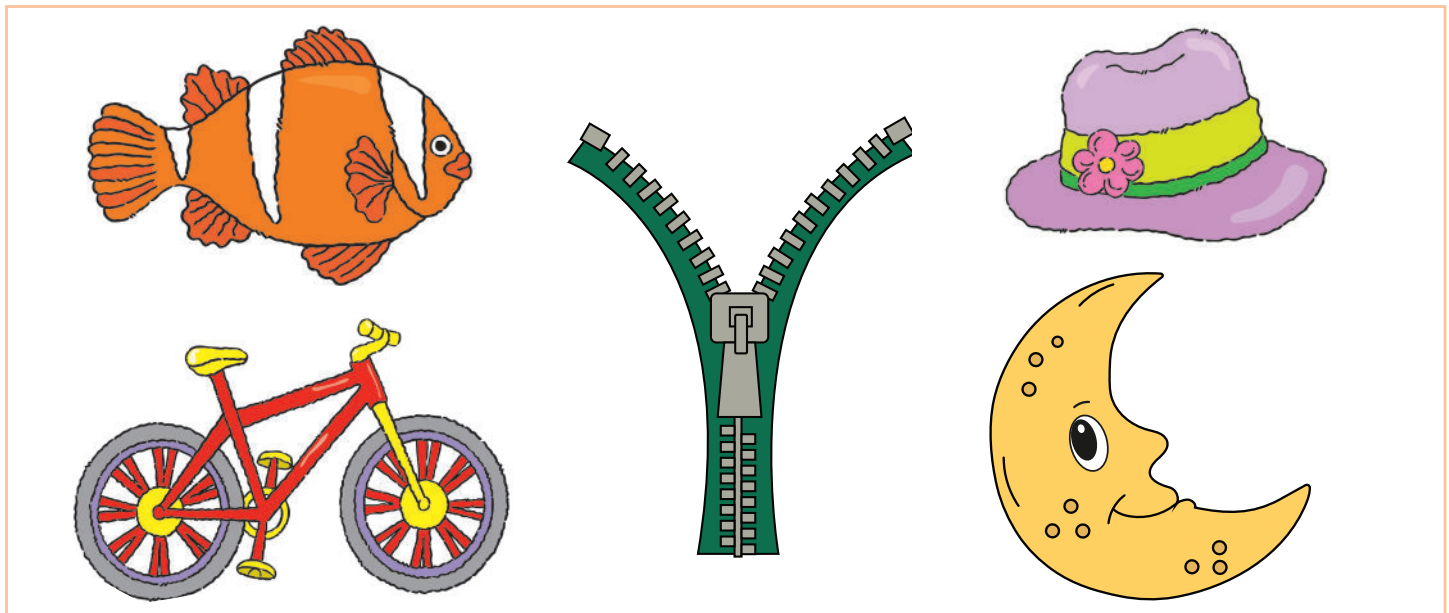
Instructions: "What does _____ start with?" [point to the picture]		Date Tested	Date Retested
Test Item	Student's Response	✓ ✗ Demonstrated	✓ ✗ Demonstrated
fish		☐	☐
hat		☐	☐
zip		☐	☐
moon		☐	☐
bike		☐	☐
Results:		___ /5 = ___ %	___ /5 = ___ %

Negative Observations (suggesting further skill development is required)

- i.) Did the child require the adult to verbally emphasize the initial sound? (eg "fffffish") ☐ Yes
- ii.) Did the child provide letter names? ☐ Yes
- iii.) Did the task appear to be difficult and cognitively effortful? ☐ Yes

Notes

Verbalisation of Initial Phoneme (Sound) "What does _____ start with?" [point to the picture]



Term 2 Alphabet Sound Screen (Group 1)

(Supporting Reading)



Instructions:

- Explanation to the student: "I want you to say the sound ..."
- Remember that NO prompting is permitted in the test items.
- Progress through calculate each student's score out of 12 in Week 6 and score out of 26 in Week 10.
- Remember to note the occurrence of any observable 'Concerning or Negative Observations'.

Remember to enter the results into the PLD Tracking Sheets. Do not convert these scores to percentages.

Name of Student: Date Tested: ☐ Week 6 Term 2 ☐ other:.....
☐ Week 10 Term 2 ☐ other:.....

Term 2 Week 6 Screen /6				Term 2 Week 10 Screen /6			
Group 1				Group 1			
Letter	Demonstrated		Concerning Observations	Letter	Demonstrated		Concerning Observations
	✓	✗			✓	✗	
n			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	n			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
a			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	a			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
t			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	t			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
s			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	s			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
i			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	i			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
p			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	p			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
Date tested _____ Score ____ /6				Date tested _____ Score ____ /12			

Week 6 /6	Week 10 /6	Group 1	n	a	t	s	i	p
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Term 2 Alphabet Sound Screen (Group 1)

(Supporting Reading)



Instructions:

- Explanation to the student: "I want you to say the sound ..."
- Remember that NO prompting is permitted in the test items.
- Progress through calculate each student's score out of 12 in Week 6 and score out of 26 in Week 10.
- Remember to note the occurrence of any observable 'Concerning or Negative Observations'.

Remember to enter the results into the PLD Tracking Sheets. Do not convert these scores to percentages.

Name of Student: Date Tested: ☐ Week 6 Term 2 ☐ other:.....
☐ Week 10 Term 2 ☐ other:.....

Term 2 Week 6 Screen /6				Term 2 Week 10 Screen /6			
Group 1				Group 1			
Letter	Demonstrated		Concerning Observations	Letter	Demonstrated		Concerning Observations
	✓	✗			✓	✗	
n			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	n			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
a			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	a			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
t			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	t			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
s			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	s			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
i			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	i			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
p			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	p			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
Date tested _____ Score ____ /6				Date tested _____ Score ____ /12			

Week 6 /6	Week 10 /6	Group 1	n a t s i p
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Term 2: Lowercase Alphabet Sound Recall & Formation (Supporting Spelling)



Instructions:

- Explanation to the student: "Write the sound"
- Remember that NO prompting is permitted in the test items.
- In the space provided, write exactly what the student verbalised.
- Note the occurrence of any 'Observations' (which indicate that further skill development is still required) even if the student scores 100%. The following observations suggest that further skill development in this area may be required:
 - Slow processing.
 - Reliance on an alphabet desk strip.
 - Incorrect starting points of letters formed.
 - Significant motor issues.
 - Reliance on adult prompting.
 - Incorrect pencil grip and seated posture.

Please note that while this subtest is part of the PLD screening schedule, this data is not required to be added to the tracking sheets

Name of Student: Date Tested: ☐ Week 6 Term 2 ☐ other:.....
☐ Week 10 Term 2 ☐ other:.....

Alphabet Sound RECALL & FORMATION - Supporting SPELLING & WRITING

Instructions: "Write the lowercase sound _____?"

Subtest 5a: Group 1		
Sound	✓ or ✗	Observations
s	☒ ☒	☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed. ☐ Unrecognisable letter
a	☒ ☒	☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed. ☐ Unrecognisable letter
t	☒ ☒	☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed. ☐ Unrecognisable letter
p	☒ ☒	☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed. ☐ Unrecognisable letter
i	☒ ☒	☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed. ☐ Unrecognisable letter
n	☒ ☒	☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed. ☐ Unrecognisable letter

Date tested _____ Score _____/6

Recording Student Results (on A3 page)

Key

- ☒ = Forms a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations
- ☒ = Incorrect letter formation and/or many concerning observations
 - Note many students at this age reverse letters. Letter reversals should not be marked as incorrect.
 - As it is early in the school year, children can use a desk mat or letter guide.

Term 3 Alphabet Sound Screen (Group 1 & 2)

(Supporting Reading)



Name of Student: Date Tested: ☐ Week 6 Term 3 ☐ other:.....
☐ Week 10 Term 3 ☐ other:.....

Term 3 Week 10 Screen /12							
Term 3 Week 6 Screen /12							
Group 1			Group 2				
Letter	Demonstrated		Concerning Observations	Letter	Demonstrated		Concerning Observations
	✓	✗			✓	✗	
a			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	r			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
s			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	m			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
t			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	h			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
i			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	c			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
p			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	e			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
n			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	d			☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting

Date tested _____

Week 6 Score ____ /12

Notes:

Date tested _____

Week 10 Score ____ /12

Notes:

Term 3 Week 6 Term 3 Week 10	Group 1	a	s	t	i	p	n
	Group 2	r	m	h	c	e	d

Term 3 Alphabet Sound Screen (Group 1 & 2)

(Supporting Reading)



Name of Student: Date Tested: ☐ Week 6 Term 3 ☐ other:.....
☐ Week 10 Term 3 ☐ other:.....

Term 3 Week 10 Screen /12					
Term 3 Week 6 Screen /12					
Group 1			Group 2		
Letter	Demonstrated	Concerning Observations	Letter	Demonstrated	Concerning Observations
	✓ x ✓ x			✓ x ✓ x	
a		☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	r		☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
s		☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	m		☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
t		☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	h		☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
i		☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	c		☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
p		☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	e		☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting
n		☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting	d		☐ Letter name/sound confusion ☐ Slow recall ☐ A reliance on adult prompting

Date tested _____

Week 6 Score ____ /12

Notes:

Date tested _____

Week 10 Score ____ /12

Notes:

Term 3 Week 6 Term 3 Week 10	Group 1	a s t i p n
	Group 2	r m h c e d

Term 3 Onset and Rime Blending (Phonological Awareness)



Instructions:

- Explanation to the student: "I am going to say some sounds. Put them together and say the word." Repeat the process for all test items.
- Remember that NO prompting is permitted in the test items.
- In the space provided, write exactly 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%. The following observations suggest that further skill development in this area is required:
 - Was the task presented with short pauses between sounds?
 - Did the child request the sounds to be repeated?
 - Did the child repeat the sounds in order to process the task?
 - Did the task appear difficult and cognitively effortful?
- For the children who have acquired the skill (i.e. 80-100%), continue to consolidate and/or progress to the next skill. For the children who have almost demonstrated the skill (i.e. 40-60%), schedule further practice. The children who have not yet acquired the skill (i.e. 0-20%) regular short targeted sessions are a priority.

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

Name of Student: Date Tested: ☐ Week 6 Term 3 ☐ other:.....
☐ Week 10 Term 3 ☐ other:.....

Subtest Blending (a precursor to decoding or reading ability.)

Onset and Rime Level Blending

Instructions: "I am going to say 2 sounds.
Put them together and say the word."

	✓ ✗ Demonstrated	✓ ✗ Demonstrated
b (1 second pause) ug =	☐	☐
p (1 second pause) ot =	☐	☐
c (1 second pause) ap =	☐	☐
p (1 second pause) et =	☐	☐
m (1 second pause) an =	☐	☐
Date Tested	Score ____ / 5 = ____ %	
Date Retested	Score ____ / 5 = ____ %	

Term 3 Week 6

Score ____ / 5 = ____ %

Notes:

Term 3 Week 10

Score ____ / 5 = ____ %

Notes:

Negative Observations (suggesting further skill development is required)

- i.) Was the task presented with short pauses between sounds? ☐ Yes
- ii.) Did the child request the sounds to be repeated? ☐ Yes
- iii.) Did the child repeat the sounds in order to process the task? ☐ Yes
- iv.) Did the task appear difficult and cognitively effortful? ☐ Yes

Notes

Notes

Term 3 Alphabet Re-call & Formation (Group 1 & 2)

(Supporting Spelling)



Instructions:

- Explanation to the student: "Write the sound"
- Remember that NO prompting is permitted in the test items.
- In the space provided, write exactly 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%. The following observations suggest that further skill development in this area is required:
 - Reliance on an alphabet desk strip.
 - Reliance on adult prompting.
 - Incorrect starting points of letters formed.
 - Incorrect pencil grip and seated posture.

Please note that while this subtest is part of the PLD screening schedule, this data is not required to be added to the tracking sheets

Name of Student: Date Tested: ☐ Week 6 Term 3 ☐ other:.....
☐ Week 10 Term 3 ☐ other:.....

Alphabet Sound RECALL & FORMATION - Supporting SPELLING & WRITING

Instructions: "Write the lowercase sound.....?"

Group 1		Group 2	
Sound ✓ or ✗	Concerning Observations	Sound ✓ or ✗	Concerning Observations
s	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed. ☐ Unrecognisable letter.	m	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed. ☐ Unrecognisable letter.
a	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed. ☐ Unrecognisable letter.	r	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed. ☐ Unrecognisable letter.
t	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed. ☐ Unrecognisable letter.	h	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed. ☐ Unrecognisable letter.
p	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed. ☐ Unrecognisable letter.	e	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed. ☐ Unrecognisable letter.
i	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed. ☐ Unrecognisable letter.	c	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed. ☐ Unrecognisable letter.
n	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed. ☐ Unrecognisable letter.	d	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed. ☐ Unrecognisable letter.

Date tested _____ Score _____ /12

Recording Student Results (on A3 page)

Key

- ☒ = Forms a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations
- ☒ = Incorrect letter formation and/or many concerning observations
 - Note many students at this age reverse letters. Letter reversals should not be marked as incorrect.
 - As it is early in the school year, children can use a desk mat or letter guide.

Term 4 Alphabet Sound Screen (Group 1, 2 & 3)

(Supporting Reading)



Name of Student: Date Tested: ☐ Week 6 Term 4 ☐ other:.....
☐ Week 10 Term 4 (optional)

Week 10 Testing /18										
Week 6 Testing /18										
Group 1				Group 2				Group 3		
Letter	Demonstrated	Concerning Observations		Letter	Demonstrated	Concerning Observations		Letter	Demonstrated	Concerning Observations
	✓ x ✓ x				✓ x ✓ x				✓ x ✓ x	
n		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		d		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		b		☐ Letter name/sound confusion
		☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall
		☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting
a		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		r		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		l		☐ Letter name/sound confusion
		☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall
		☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting
p		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		e		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		o		☐ Letter name/sound confusion
		☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall
		☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting
t		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		h		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		g		☐ Letter name/sound confusion
		☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall
		☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting
i		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		c		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		u		☐ Letter name/sound confusion
		☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall
		☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting
s		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		m		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		f		☐ Letter name/sound confusion
		☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall
		☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting

Week 6: Date tested _____ Score ____ /18

Week 10: Date retested _____ Score ____ /18 (optional)

Term 4 Week 6 Term 4 Week 10	Group 1	n	a	p	t	i	s	
	Group 2	d	r	e	h	c	m	
	Group 3	b	l	o	g	u	f	
	Optional Group 4	w	j	v	k	z	y	q

Term 4 Alphabet Sound Screen (Group 1, 2 & 3)

(Supporting Reading)



Name of Student: Date Tested: ☐ Week 6 Term 4 ☐ other:.....
☐ Week 10 Term 4 (optional)

Week 10 Testing /18											
Week 6 Testing /18											
Group 1				Group 2				Group 3			
Letter	Demonstrated	Concerning Observations		Letter	Demonstrated	Concerning Observations		Letter	Demonstrated	Concerning Observations	
	✓ x ✓ x				✓ x ✓ x				✓ x ✓ x		
n		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		d		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		b		☐ Letter name/sound confusion	
		☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall	
		☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting	
a		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		r		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		l		☐ Letter name/sound confusion	
		☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall	
		☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting	
p		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		e		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		o		☐ Letter name/sound confusion	
		☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall	
		☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting	
t		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		h		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		g		☐ Letter name/sound confusion	
		☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall	
		☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting	
i		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		c		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		u		☐ Letter name/sound confusion	
		☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall	
		☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting	
s		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		m		☐ Letter name/sound confusion		f		☐ Letter name/sound confusion	
		☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall				☐ Slow recall	
		☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting				☐ A reliance on adult prompting	

Week 6: Date tested _____ Score ____ /18

Week 10: Date retested _____ Score ____ /18 (optional)

Term 4 Week 6 Term 4 Week 10	Group 1	n	a	p	t	i	s		
	Group 2	d	r	e	h	c	m		
	Group 3	b	l	o	g	u	f		
Optional	Group 4	w	j	v	k	z	y	q	x

Term 4 Blending Screen

(Supporting Reading)



Instructions:

- Explanation to the student: "I am going to say some sounds. Put them together and say the word." Repeat the process for all test items.
- Remember that NO prompting is permitted in the test items.
- In the space provided, write exactly 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%. The following observations suggest that further skill development in this area is required:
 - Was the task presented with short pauses between sounds?
 - Did the child request the sounds to be repeated?
 - Did the child repeat the sounds in order to process the task?
 - Did the task appear difficult and cognitively effortful?
- For the children who have acquired the skill (i.e. 80-100%), continue to consolidate and/or progress to the next skill. For the children who have almost demonstrated the skill (i.e. 40-60%), schedule further practice. The children who have not yet acquired the skill (i.e. 0-20%) regular short targeted sessions are a priority.

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

Name of Student: Date Tested: ☐ Week 6 Term 4 ☐ other:
☐ Week 10 Term 4 (optional)

Subtest Blending (a precursor to decoding or reading ability.)

Onset and Rime Level Blending

Instructions: "I am going to say 2 sounds.
Put them together and say the word."

	✓ ✗ Demonstrated	✓ ✗ Demonstrated
b (1 second pause) ug =	☐	☐
p (1 second pause) ot =	☐	☐
c (1 second pause) ap =	☐	☐
p (1 second pause) et =	☐	☐
m (1 second pause) an =	☐	☐
Date Tested	Score ____ / 5 = ____ %	
Date Retested	Score ____ / 5 = ____ %	

Blending Three Phonemes

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

	✓ ✗ Demonstrated	✓ ✗ Demonstrated
m (1 second pause) u (1 second pause) g =	☐	☐
s (1 second pause) u (1 second pause) n =	☐	☐
f (1 second pause) a (1 second pause) n =	☐	☐
b (1 second pause) e (1 second pause) d =	☐	☐
t (1 second pause) a (1 second pause) p =	☐	☐
Date Tested	Score ____ / 5 = ____ %	
Date Retested	Score ____ / 5 = ____ %	

Negative Observations (suggesting further skill development is required)

- i.) Was the task presented with short pauses between sounds? ☐ Yes
- ii.) Did the child request the sounds to be repeated? ☐ Yes
- iii.) Did the child repeat the sounds in order to process the task? ☐ Yes
- iv.) Did the task appear difficult and cognitively effortful? ☐ Yes

Notes

Notes

Term 4 Alphabet Re-call & Foundation (Group 1, 2 & 3)

(Supporting Spelling)



Instructions:

- Explanation to the student: "Write the sound"
- Remember that NO prompting is permitted in the test items.
- In the space provided, write exactly 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%. The following observations suggest that further skill development in this area is required:
 - Reliance on an alphabet desk strip.
 - Reliance on adult prompting.
 - Incorrect starting points of letters formed.
 - Incorrect pencil grip and seated posture.

Please note that while this subtest is part of the PLD screening schedule, this data is not required to be added to the tracking sheets

Name of Student: Date Tested: ☐ Week 6 Term 4 ☐ other:.....
☐ Week 10 Term 4 (optional)

Alphabet Sound RECALL & FORMATION - Supporting SPELLING & WRITING

Instructions: "Write the lowercase sound _____?"

Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
Sound	Concerning Observations	Sound	Concerning Observations	Sound	Concerning Observations
s	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed ☐ Unrecognisable letters.	m	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed ☐ Unrecognisable letters.	f	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed ☐ Unrecognisable letters.
a	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed ☐ Unrecognisable letters.	r	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed ☐ Unrecognisable letters.	l	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed ☐ Unrecognisable letters.
t	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed ☐ Unrecognisable letters.	h	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed ☐ Unrecognisable letters.	g	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed ☐ Unrecognisable letters.
p	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed ☐ Unrecognisable letters.	e	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed ☐ Unrecognisable letters.	o	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed ☐ Unrecognisable letters.
i	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed ☐ Unrecognisable letters.	c	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed ☐ Unrecognisable letters.	u	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed ☐ Unrecognisable letters.
n	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed ☐ Unrecognisable letters.	d	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed ☐ Unrecognisable letters.	b	☒ ☒ ☐ Can form a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations. ☐ Incorrect letter formed ☐ Unrecognisable letters.

Date tested _____ Score _____ /26

Key

☒ = Forms a distinguishable lowercase letter with minimal concerning observations

☒ = Incorrect letter formation and/or many concerning observations

- Note many students at this age reverse letters. Letter reversals should not be marked as incorrect.
- As it is early in the school year, children can use a desk mat or letter guide.

PLD's Decodable Reading Books

PLD's Decodable Reading Books have been meticulously developed for Foundation and Year 1 students being taught to read using Structured Synthetic Phonics (SSP). The 10 Sets are authored by speech pathologists and comprise 230 books in total.

Decodable Reading Books for Foundation

Sets 1-7 comprise 170 books and focus on the Initial Code. These Foundation Sets have been awarded Speech Pathology Australia's 2025 Decodable Book of the Year Award.

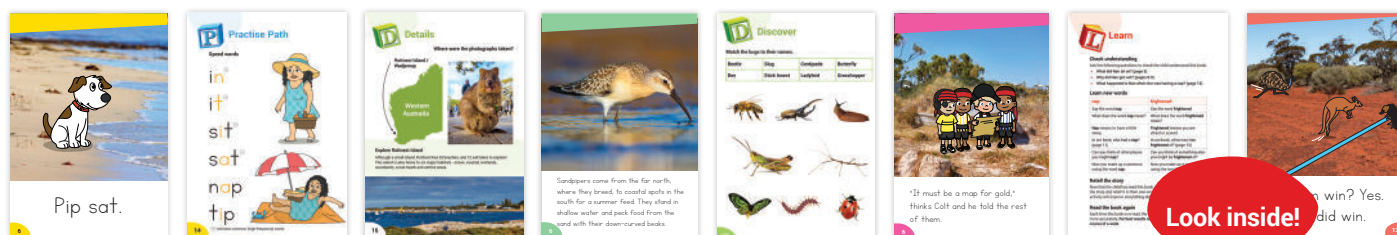


For more information visit
<https://pld-literacy.org/decodables>



Decodable Reading Books for Year 1

Sets 8-10 comprise 60 books and focus on the Extended Code. Set 7 can overlap between Foundation and Year 1 teaching.



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