



Letter Identification

Overview of the Assessment

It is imperative that students acquire some degree of letter knowledge, including the ability to distinguish and identify the letters of the alphabet and phonological awareness, an appreciation of the fact that spoken words are made up of smaller units of sound (Snow, Burns, and Griffin 185). Prereaders' letter knowledge is the single best predictor of first-year reading achievement, with their ability to discriminate phonemes auditorily ranking a close second. It is not simply the accuracy with which students can name letters that gives them an advantage in learning to read; it is the ease or fluency with which they can do so. In other words, it is their basic familiarity with the letter (Adams 36, 43).

Expectations

By the end of Kindergarten, children will:
(Language Overall)

- B. Demonstrate understanding and critical awareness of a variety of written materials that are read by and with the teacher;
- C. Use reading strategies that are appropriate for beginning readers in order to make sense of a variety of written materials.

How to Administer the Assessment

1. Use the "Letter Identification Sheet – Upper Case". Ask the student: *Can you find some letters that you know?* (May start with the letter of his/her name.)
2. Point to each letter (going across the line) and ask the student to identify each letter name and sound.

Students who are hesitating may be prompted with:

- Do you know its name?
- Do you know what sound it makes?
- Do you know a word that starts like that?

3. Record responses using the legend provided on the "Letter Identification Sheet" and add any other comments in the space provided.
4. Use the "Letter Identification Sheet – Lower Case". Follow the same procedure as above.

Tip: Teachers may want to use 3 colours of ink to distinguish assessment periods.

Resources

- The Kindergarten Program, 2006
- Kindergarten Teacher's Resource Book by Miriam Trehearne pages 19, 46-62, 81

P G L Q A K
E T U R D X
N M F Y W S
C I Z J H O
V B

r s i x d v
m k t o y b
c z e w a l
g f h q n p
j u



Letter Identification

Legend:

√ - correct

○ - not known

Student: _____

Date: _____

Letters	Letter Name Name / Sound	Letters	Letter Name Name / Sound	Comments
P		r		
G		s		
L		i		
Q		x		
A		d		
K		v		
E		m		
T		k		
U		t		
R		o		
D		y		
X		b		
N		c		
M		z		
F		e		
Y		w		
W		a		
S		l		
C		g		
I		f		
Z		h		
J		q		
H		n		
O		p		
V		j		
B		u		