

Grade Three Critical Reading Targets

These critical reading targets were compiled by NLPS teachers and align with the current BC Curriculum. These critical skills are provided to help teachers screen, identify and monitor a learners' needs for the purposes of guiding instructional decisions around critical reading skills.

Phonological & Phonemic Awareness

By Grade 3, phonological and phonemic awareness should be well established. Students should have mastered even the most complex phonemic awareness skills of "manipulation" including:

- Substitution (Substitute "n" in nap to "c";
- Deletion (take -away /f/ from flake)
- Addition (as /s/ to "top")
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*If students are experiencing significant reading challenges it may be appropriate to offer the phonological awareness subtests from the PARS 1 & 2

Phonics

Decodes

- Multisyllabic words (6 syllable types)
- Words with inflectional endings and understands their spelling patterns
- Contractions
- Words with common prefixes and suffixes
- Word families / onset-rimes (e.g. b-ack, s-top)
- Initial & final consonant digraphs (ch, sh, th etc.)
- Some vowel digraphs (oo, ee, ea, ai, etc..)
- Diphthongs (ow, ou, oi, oy)
- R- controlled vowels (ar, er, ir, ur, or, ore, our)

Reading Words

- Recognize approx. 500 words by sight

Fluency

- *Reads grade level text with expression and phrasing
- *Ease and accuracy with the above mentioned phonological and phonics skills
- Adjusts speed and rate of reading
- Changes voice with punctuation and emotion words

Vocabulary

- Uses sensory detail, description language, clear & specific vocabulary
- Knowledge of root words, compound words, and syllabication
- Knowledge of common prefixes, suffixes and word endings
- Reflects on, identifies and assesses strategies to make meaning and figure out unknown words
- Begins to identify and understand idiomatic expressions
- Uses academic language related to reading (plot, conflict, theme, etc...)

Comprehension

- In discussions, uses strategies before, during and after reading and viewing to confirm meaning
 - Accessing prior knowledge
 - Predicting
 - Making connections
 - Asking questions
- Visualizes, sketches and uses graphic organizers to support comprehension
- Summarizes / retells events with some detail, identifies problem/solution, main & supporting characters, and makes basic inferences to draw conclusions

The NLPS Primary Assessment of Reading Screener is based on these above critical reading skills. Most critical skills are end of year targets.