

Word Lists to Determine Estimated Reading Level

Please use the “Where to Start Running Records” tab
in your ESGI account

You will need the word list score to reading level chart on the next page; the word lists (which are preloaded in ESGI — but also included in this packet) and a student copy for recording (if you would like a paper copy on which to add notes).

Why? — This quick word list assessment will give you an **estimated** student reading level. You will then need to begin with a passage at that level and move up or down based upon student performance.

How to Use the Lists? — Ask students to read the word list. If you have foundation knowledge of which list is best, start there — you do not have to start with List O. Say, “I want you to read some words, if you get to a hard one, try it. You can skip it if you still cannot read it”. Do not allow more than 5 seconds on a word.

Errors - Words that the student

- Cannot read.
- Substitutes a different word.
- Fails to pronounce after a few tries.
- Does not complete entire word.

Do NOT prompt or aid a student on any of the words.

Word List Score to Reading Level Chart

Number Correct	Early	List 1	List 2	List 3	List 4
0-5	A	A	E	I	M
6-10	A	B	F	J	M
11-15	A	C	G	K	N
16-20	B	D	H	L	N

Have students read the words in the list. IF student gets 16-20 correct, go to next list. **When student reads less than 16 words within a level**, convert the number of words read correctly to a STARTING Reading Level in the above chart.

Early Reading Words

go	me	play	the
I	can	and	to
you	in	get	we
it	see	look	like
is	come	my	are

List 1 Words

not

will

jump

went

help

little

was

this

have

has

bad

make

dime

fell

said

here

work

they

with

meet

List 2 Words

night

when

could

train

road

first

thank

bigger

three

away

want

friend

mark

town

muddy

morning

drip

school

glass

screen

List 3 Words

please

once

city

noise

giant

because

again

carefully

knot

early

switched

around

always

judge

believe

myself

scramble

matter

year

village

List 4 Words

marble	understood	splendid	serious
nature	traffic	develop	anger
plastic	against	delicious	reward
certainly	realized	exceed	improved
future	trustworthy	heavy	honey

Student: _____

Date: _____

Early Reading List			List 1			List 2		
Word	✓/ -	Notes	Word	✓/ -	Notes	Word	✓/ -	Notes
go			not			night		
me			will			when		
play			jump			could		
the			went			train		
I			help			road		
can			little			first		
and			was			thank		
to			this			bigger		
you			have			three		
in			has			away		
get			bad			want		
we			make			friend		
it			dime			mark		
see			fell			town		
look			said			muddy		
like			here			morning		
is			work			drip		
come			they			school		
my			with			glass		
are			meet			screen		
	/20			/20			/20	

Student: _____

Date: _____

List 3			List 4		
Word	✓/ -	Notes	Word	✓/ -	Notes
please			marble		
once			understood		
city			splendid		
noise			serious		
giant			mature		
because			traffic		
again			develop		
carefully			anger		
knot			plastic		
early			against		
switched			delicious		
around			reward		
always			certainly		
judge			realized		
believe			exceed		
myself			improved		
scramble			future		
matter			trustworthy		
year			heavy		
village			honey		
	/20			/20	