



Reading Recovery® Council
of North America

500 W. Wilson Bridge Road, Suite 250
Worthington, OH 43085

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Contact: Marsha Studebaker, director of communications
614-310-7333 – OFFICE
614-783-9001 – CELL
mstudebaker@readingrecovery.org

An Observation Survey of Early Literacy Achievement
Receives Highest Possible Ratings

An Observation Survey of Early Literacy Achievement, the screening tool central to Reading Recovery's evaluation and instruction, has received the highest possible ratings for scientific rigor from the National Center on Response to Intervention (NCRTI). The ratings and descriptions are intended to inform and assist educators as they select screening tools that are valid, reliable, and evidence-based.

In an era when many educators and parents question the pervasive use of tests, the Observation Survey is an exemplar for formative assessment that not only measures children's knowledge but guides instructional planning in the beginning stages of reading. The survey incorporates six tasks: Letter Identification, Word Reading, Concepts About Print, Writing Vocabulary, Hearing and Recording Sounds in Words, and Text Reading.

"This rating is welcome affirmation for thousands of Reading Recovery-trained teachers, classroom teachers, and researchers who have long seen the powerful and practical use of Observation Survey results," said Jady Johnson, executive director of the Reading Recovery Council of North America. "The new NCRTI ratings provide additional evidence of Reading Recovery's strong scientific base."

An Observation Survey of Early Literacy Achievement is the work of Marie Clay, a New Zealand educator and developmental psychologist who was driven by a theoretical perspective that focused on the individual learner. She developed systematic tasks with sound measurement qualities to observe young literacy learners with confidence. Years of research and refinement led to the current publication now available from Heinemann. While the survey is the primary assessment tool used to measure student learning in the Reading Recovery early intervention, it was initially developed for and is still widely used by classroom and specialist teachers as well as researchers.

Measuring student results using the Observation Survey has been a cornerstone for Reading Recovery since its founding. The survey is administered to each Reading Recovery student before lessons, at the end of lessons, and in the spring of first grade. Teachers report results to the International Data Evaluation Center (IDEC) located at The Ohio State University. IDEC's remarkable database and the expertise of Jerome V. D'Agostino, IDEC's director of research, were key in accomplishing the complex statistical analysis needed to meet NCRTI's criteria.

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See NCRTI's ratings for the Observation Survey.

<http://www.rti4success.org/screeningTools>

Find out more about Reading Recovery and RTI.

<http://fdf.readingrecovery.org/index.php/response-to-intervention> .

Read more about the Observation Survey.

http://rrcna.org/reading_recovery/accountability/observation/index.asp

Learn more about the International Data Evaluation Center.

<https://www.idecweb.us/Default.asp>