



# OBSERVATION SURVEY MEASURES KNOWLEDGE AND GUIDES INSTRUCTION

In an era when many educators and parents question the pervasive use of tests, *An Observation Survey of Early Literacy Achievement* is an exemplar for formative assessment.

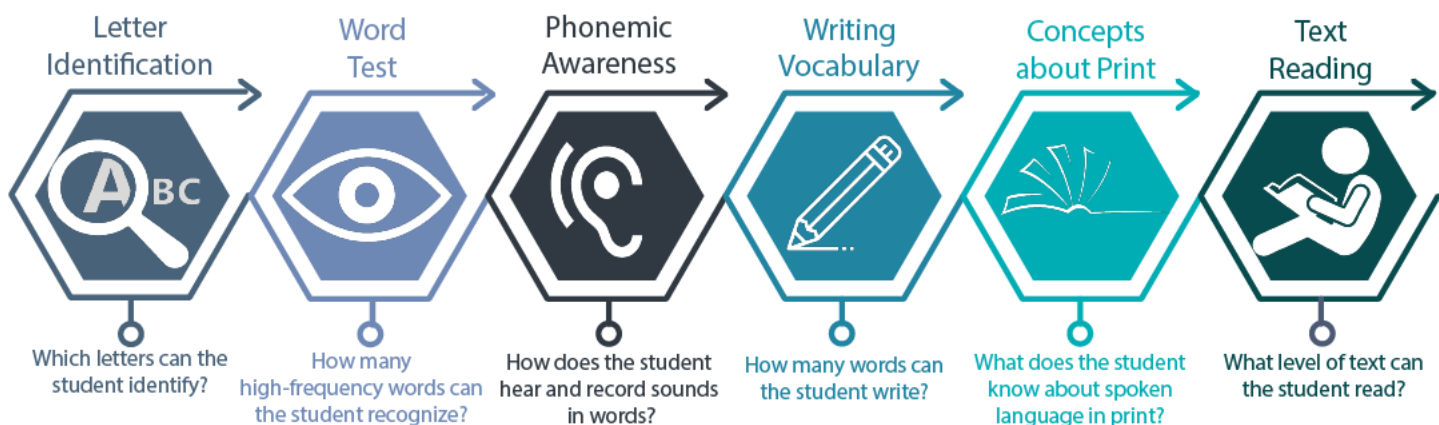
The Observation Survey—the screening tool central to Reading Recovery’s evaluation and instruction since its founding—not only measures children’s knowledge but guides instructional planning to support early literacy learning. It has received the highest possible ratings from the National Center on Intensive Intervention (NCII), whose ratings and descriptions are intended to inform and assist educators as they select screening tools that are valid, reliable, and evidence-based.

In Reading Recovery, each child is assessed before entering the intervention, when leaving the intervention, and at the end of the school year. Reading Recovery-trained teachers receive extensive instruction to administer, score, and interpret the Observation Survey. Data for each child are sent to the International Data Evaluation Center for analysis and reporting. An annual report is generated for each school participating in Reading Recovery and sent to the site’s teacher leader(s).

## OBSERVATION SURVEY— A CORNERSTONE OF READING RECOVERY

The Observation Survey incorporates six literacy tasks, all necessary to describe a young child’s emerging reading and writing behaviors:

1. **Letter Identification** which determines which letters the child knows and the preferred model of identification.
2. **Word Test** to determine if the child is building a personal resource of reading vocabulary
3. **Concepts About Print** to determine what the child knows about the way spoken language is represented in print
4. **Writing Vocabulary** to determine if the child is building a personal resource of known words that can be written in every detail
5. **Hearing and Recording Sounds in Words** to assess phonemic awareness by determining how the child represents sounds in graphic form
6. **Text Reading** to determine an appropriate level of text difficulty and to record what the child does when reading continuous text (using running record)



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