You Should Know!

Cash was a kindergartner who had come to the assessment training class as a subject for the teachers practicing the first Observation Survey. When the teacher asked him on the Concepts About Print task, “Where do I start?” he replied, “Well you know that. You’re the teacher!!”

— Hollyanna Bates  
Reading Recovery Teacher Leader  
Summit School District, Colorado

Hairlines

I work with students in both English and Spanish. One day D’Angelo noticed one of my magnetic letters, the Spanish letter ñ, and asked, “Why does that letter have hair?”

Interpretation

Alejandro and I were talking about rattlesnake tails and I was trying to remember the Spanish word for shakes. Alejandro speaks a lot of English, so he asked me how to say the word in English. When I told him shakes he said the Spanish translation was smoothies.

— Joyce Romano  
Reading Recovery/DLL Teacher  
San Francisco, California

Perceived Value

After a colleague finished administering the Observation Survey at the conclusion of a student’s series of lessons, I was pleased with how much improvement the student had made, especially on the writing tasks. When I met with the student the next day, I decided to show him both his current and beginning Hearing and Recording Sounds in Words and Writing Vocabulary so that he could see the improvement. After showing him both sheets side-by-side for both assessments, he slammed his little hand on the table, looked me in the eye, and said, “Wow, they don’t pay you enough!”

— Kim Andresen  
Title I/Reading Recovery Teacher  
North Polk Community Schools, Iowa