

High Frequency Words Assessment

Purpose

The High Frequency Words Assessment is a list of words that includes the most frequent words from children's books as well as words that appear in emergent and early guided reading books. The High Frequency Words Assessment is a tool for teachers to determine which high frequency words students can read automatically and those that require more practice.

Administration

- Give the student a copy of the High Frequency Words student sheets or digital version.
- Ask the student to read the words aloud in order. Words must be read automatically, not sounded out, to be considered correct.
- Record the student's correct responses with a check mark in the column next to the corresponding word on the High Frequency Words recording sheet. If a student gives an incorrect response leave the box blank.
- Consider stopping when the student is unable to correctly read all or most of the words in a column.
- Do not offer the student any assistance except to ask him/her to move on to the next word as needed.

Analysis

Review the high frequency words the student identified correctly. Compare the student's high frequency word recognition to those words that have already been formally introduced in classroom instruction. Note which words require re-teaching or review. The order of the words in this assessment does not represent a particular instructional sequence. Take cues from your students' needs in reading and writing to determine which words to introduce first.

Although the High Frequency Words Assessment shows a student's knowledge of words in isolation, it is important to also note the high frequency words the student can read in continuous text. An increase in high frequency word recognition may indicate an emergent or early reader is ready to handle more challenging text.

Automatic high frequency word recognition can aid in a student's fluency development. The automaticity with which high frequency words are read accurately can increase a student's overall reading rate, which is one component of fluent reading.