

Dynamic Indicators
of Basic Early Literacy
Skills (DIBELS)



DIBELS are a series of short tests given to children in kindergarten through fifth grade to screen and monitor their progress in learning the necessary skills to become successful readers. Many elementary schools across the nation are using DIBELS as part of their on-going assessment to help all children become successful readers.

DIBELS includes a total of five measures. For kindergarten students, three of these measures will be given. First grade students will be assessed on three measures while second grade students will be given two measures. Third through fifth grade students will only be assessed on the oral reading fluency measure.

All DIBELS measures are timed with most taking one minute. Timing allows us to see if the student is able to answer questions automatically (within 3 seconds). Having these basic reading skills at the automatic level allows students to use their energy on understanding the meaning of what they are reading.

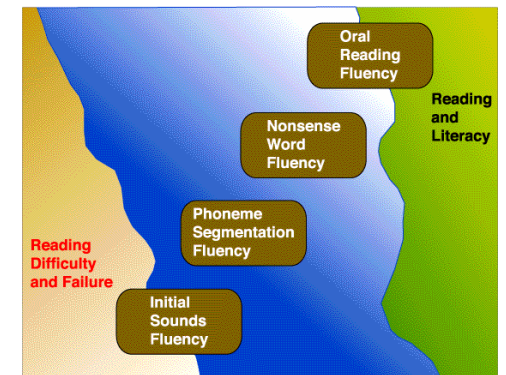
Otsego Public Schools
Parent Information

on

Dynamic Indicators of
Early Literacy Skills

***DYNAMIC INDICATORS
OF BASIC EARLY
LITERACY SKILLS***

DIBELS



A Parent's Guide

DIBELS

NONSENSE WORDS

By the middle of Kindergarten, students should be able to understand that sounds are represented by letters. When sounds are blended together, they make a word. Nonsense words are used instead of real words in an attempt to assess the connection of sound to letter without the use of the student's memory skills. This skill helps students read unfamiliar words. Children are shown a page of make-believe words like "pob" and "dat" and asked to read them by reading the individual sounds or the whole word. This test is given to mid-kindergarteners, first and second graders and is timed for one minute.

ORAL READING

By the middle of first grade, students should be able to read a story fluently. This test is given beginning in first grade and continues through fifth grade. Students are asked to read three passages with each being timed for one minute. It assesses the students' ability to correctly and fluently read passages within their grade level. When students are able to read fluently, they are better able to understand what they read.

LETTER NAMING

Kindergarten and first grade students are shown a page with letters and asked to name each letter. This test is timed for one minute.

INITIAL SOUNDS

By the middle of Kindergarten, students should be able to automatically say or recognize the beginning sound in words. Students are shown a page with four pictures and asked to find the picture that begins with a particular sound or they are asked to say the beginning sound of a word. This test is given to kindergarten students only and takes about 3 minutes.

PHONEME SEGMENTATION

By the middle of Kindergarten, students should be able to understand that words are made up of individual sounds. The child is told a word like "cat" and asked to say all of the sounds in the word. There are three sounds in "cat" /c/ /a/ /t/. This assessment is given to kindergarten and first grade students and is timed for one minute.

If your child is just beginning to learn to read -

At home you can help your child by....

- Practicing the sounds of the language
- Teach your child rhymes, short poems and songs.
- Play simple word games like:
 - how many words can you make up that sound like "bat"?
- Help your child take spoken words apart and put them together.
- Have them listen for the beginning or ending sounds in a word
- Have them put together individual sounds to make a new word.

If your child is a beginning reader...

- Point to letters and ask for the sound it makes
- Listen to your child read words and books.
- *Let your child know how proud you are of his reading!*

If your child is reading...

- *Reread familiar books*
- *Read to your child with expression*
- *Ask your child questions about the story*