

Ensuring Reading Success Through “Well Checks”

Just as doctors use children’s height and weight in comparison to other children’s as vital signs of development, Mrs. Dawson uses children’s reading and reading growth as “Well Checks”. Therefore, each September, January, and May/June children in grades K-3 will be given the MAP Fluency assessment. Students in fourth grade will be given diagnostic assessments through Phonics First as part of their “Well Check.”

MAP Reading Fluency measures beginning reader skills, like letter knowledge, and it measures oral reading for children who are ready. We use these results to better understand your child’s individual needs and to help them progress as readers.

MAP Reading Fluency tests are unique in that they adapt to your child’s level of learning. If your child demonstrates readiness, they move to more challenging sections of the test. If they struggle with one section, the next questions will be easier. MAP Reading Fluency takes about 20 minutes, features an encouraging character, and is age appropriate for young students. We think of it as taking your child’s reading temperature.

Since MAP Reading Fluency provides immediate and accurate information about your child’s reading, it’s easy for teachers to identify students with similar scores that are generally ready for instruction in similar skills and topics, and then plan instruction accordingly.

Student reading is recorded during the test, and the recording can be shared with parents and used by teachers to track reading skill development.

Just as a doctor places a child’s height and weight on a chart and grids it, the MAP Reading Fluency assessment places your child’s reading on a chart to monitor growth. This chart shows how one student identified letter names, sounds, phonemic segmentations or read the stories compared to other classmates in the same grade. It also displays how well an average child would complete these skills.

The students that scored in the lower percentiles are placed on tiers and receive extra instruction from their classroom teacher, instructional aide, and/or Mrs. Dawson. Your child’s progress is monitored and reviewed every 12 weeks by the I&RS committee.

The September information remains on the chart, and when the January benchmark testing is completed, that data will be added to the chart. This permits the teachers to see if an improvement has been made in your child’s early literacy skills and/or reading ability.

These early literacy and reading “Well Checks” will be done again in January/February and during the last several weeks of school. The results will be added to the chart to make a final comparison and determine how much reading growth your child made throughout the year.

As always, Mrs. Dawson is available for questions or concerns regarding your individual child’s/children’s “Well Checks”.