

Checklist for Selecting a Phonics Assessment

Critical Features	YES	NO
Reliable and Valid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> STOP
Student Reads Aloud	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> STOP
Quick and Efficient to Administer (≤ 5 minutes per student)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> STOP
Uses Nonsense Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> STOP
Grades 1 – 5+	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> STOP
Measures Common Phonics Patterns:		
Short Vowels (e.g., h <u>a</u> t, m <u>o</u> st)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Long Vowel with Silent e (e.g., b <u>i</u> ke, m <u>a</u> ke)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vowel Teams (e.g., p <u>a</u> id, v <u>oi</u> d)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
R-Controlled Vowels (e.g., h <u>er</u> , c <u>ar</u>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Digraphs (e.g., <u>th</u> is, <u>sh</u> ip)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blends (e.g., <u>st</u> ir, <u>cr</u> awl)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefixes (e.g., <u>re</u> pay, <u>un</u> wrap)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suffixes (e.g., tall <u>est</u> , action <u>able</u>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Single and Multisyllabic Words (e.g., cat, catnip)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scored at the Error Level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provides Multiple Opportunities Per Pattern	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student is Asked to Read EVERY Word	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Customizable to Program’s Phonics Scope and Sequence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Answers Questions at the Student Level:		
<i>Which students are at-risk for word reading?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Which specific phonics skills does a student need help with?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Are phonics skills improving for a student?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Answers Questions for Grade and Class Level:		
<i>Is the entire grade or class demonstrating mastery of phonics skills they have been taught?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Are phonics skills improving across the year for a grade or class?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Which phonics skills should be taught whole class vs. small group?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provides Instant Reports		
Student Level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Class Level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grade Level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This checklist was developed by Dr. Michelle Hosp. For more information about using this checklist to select a phonics assessment that will provide valuable, actionable data to inform reading instruction, watch the on-demand webinar, [Using Phonics Assessment Data to Inform Instruction](#), featuring Dr. Hosp and Dr. Louisa Moats.

Pivot Learning refers to both Pivot Learning and our subsidiary, the Consortium on Reaching Excellence in Education (CORE).