

How to use the Oral Reading Records

Oral Reading Record sheets for each Engage Literacy title are provided at the back of the *Teacher's Resource* books.

What is the purpose of a Oral Reading Record?

- A Oral Reading Record provides a diagnostic assessment of a child's reading ability.
- A Oral Reading Record looks at the strategies a child uses to read and is a useful tool for informing planning.
- A Oral Reading Record informs you if a book is suitable for a child's reading level.

Preparation

- Select a book that the child is familiar with.
- Explain to the child that you are going to listen to them read aloud because you want to learn more about their reading.
- Introduce the book to the child by looking at the front cover and the title page.
- When you are ready, ask the child to start reading.

Making a Oral Reading Record

- Using the reading symbols outlined below, mark the text on your Oral Reading Record as the child reads. Record a mark above each word. Use the first two columns on the right to keep a tally of the number of errors and self-corrections.
- Refer to the reading strategies outlined below, and note the reading strategies used in the final column.

Reading symbols

No errors Errors

✓ = correct word

R = repeated word

Sc = self-corrects

Errors

O = omitted word

^ = inserted word (write the inserted word above the text)

T = told word (if the child attempts the word, write the attempt over the word and record it as an error unless the child manages to say the word correctly)

Reading strategies

Ph = phonic

the child tried to sound out the problem word

G = graphic

the child suggested a word that looks similar to the problem word

S = syntactic

the child suggested a grammatically sensible word

C = contextual

the child suggested a sensible substitution within the context of the whole text

Interpreting the Oral Reading Record

Count up the total number of errors (do not include self-corrections) and calculate the accuracy rate using the formula outlined below:

$\frac{\text{Number of words read accurately}}{\text{The total number of words}} \times 100$

So for example, if a child read 114 words correctly in a 126-word book, the accuracy rate would be:

$$\frac{114}{126} \times 100 = 90.5\%$$

A reading accuracy rate of 95% or above indicates that the book is at a comfortable level for the child to read independently. A reading accuracy rate of between 90% and 95% signifies that the text is appropriate for use during a guided reading lesson. Below 90% indicates that the text is too difficult.

Notes made during the Oral Reading Record should indicate which strategies the child is using to read. If the child is relying heavily on one strategy, he or she may need support using other strategies.