

Print Concepts Assessment

Directions: Select a level B or C book to use for the assessment; make sure the text contains a question mark because that is an assessment item. Ask the child to do each of the tasks below using the book. Circle 1 point if the child does the task correctly.

Concept	Teacher Directions	Possible Responses	Score
Book Concepts	"I'm going to read you part of this book, but I need your help!" [Hand book to child spine first, with cover facing down.]		
Front cover	"Can you show me the front of the book?"	Points to the cover	1
Title	"Where is the title of the book?"	Points to the title	1
Print carries the message (not illustrations) Recognizes that spoken words are represented in written language by specific sequences of letters (*K)	[Open to the first page of the book that has text and illustrations.] "Now can you show me where I should begin reading?"	Points to first word on page	1
Directionality Follows words from left to right, top to bottom, and page by page (*K)	"Before I start reading, can you show me with your fingers which way I should go?"	Traces finger from left to right	1
One-to-one match Understands that words are separated by spaces in print (*K)	"When I get to the end of this line, where should I go next?"	Traces finger to the beginning of next line (return sweep)	1
Concept of sentence Recognizes distinguishing feature of a sentence, such as first word, capitalization, and ending punctuation (*Grade 1)	"OK, I'm ready to read the words. Can you help me by pointing to each word while I read it?"	Points to each word you read as you read it making an exact voice-print match	1
Period	[Find a page with one sentence on it.] "Can you point to the first word in this sentence?"	Points to first word	1
Question mark	"Why is the first letter different from the rest?"	Says, "It's a capital letter" or "it's bigger than the rest" (something to indicate that he or she sees the difference)	1
	[Point to a period] "What is this?"	Says, "period"	1
	[Point to a question mark] "What is this?"	Says, "question mark"	1

Adapted from Clay (2000). (*Aligned with the CCSS Foundational Skills)

Total Score: _____/10