Decoding Placement Test

Preparation

Reproduce one copy of the test for each student and each tester. A reproducible copy appears on pages 50 and 51 of this guide.

Administration

Select a quiet place to administer the test. Students who are to be tested later should not observe or hear another student being tested. You will need a test form for each student and a stopwatch or a watch with a second hand. When administering the test, sit across from the student. Position the test form so that the student cannot see what you are writing on the form.

Fill out the top lines of the test form (student information). Keep this filled-out test form and hand the student a clean copy of the test.

PART I

Tell the student ⸺. Begin timing as soon as the student begins reading the first sentence.

Record each decoding mistake the student makes in oral reading. Mark an X on the filled-out form to show where the student made each mistake.

- If the student omits a word, mark an X above the omitted word.

- If the student adds a word that does not appear in the story, mark an X between two words to show where the word has been added.

- If the student misidentifies a word, mark an X above the misidentified word. Do not count the same misidentified word more than once. (For example, if the student misidentified the name "Hurn" four times, count only 1 error.)

- If the student cannot identify a word within 3 seconds, say the word and mark an X above it.

- If the student makes a mistake and then self-corrects by saying the correct word, mark an X above the word.

- If the student sounds out a word but does not pronounce it at a normal speaking rate, ask ⸺

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When recording the errors, make sure your copy of the story is not visible to the student. The student should not be able to see the marks you are making.

Decoding Placement Schedule

Decoding Placement Test

Name   Class   Date

School   Tester

PART I   Errors   Time

PART II   Errors

PART III   Errors   Time

PART IV   Errors   Time

Placement _____