

Indiana Reading Diagnostic Assessment – Kindergarten

The *Indiana Reading Diagnostic Assessment* evaluates your kindergartner's understanding of critical skills needed for reading development. These include **phonemic awareness** skills, **comprehension** skills, **phonics** skills, **vocabulary** skills, and **writing** skills.

Phonemic Awareness is the understanding that sounds (called phonemes) make up spoken words. Students need to be able to change and move sounds in spoken words. Students also need broader phonological skills of understanding rhymes and syllables in spoken words. (*Note: letters written like /a/ mean to say the sound, not the name of the letter.*)

- **Syllables:** counting word parts, “*Other* has two syllables (oth-er), *September* has three syllables (Sep-tem-ber).”
- **Phoneme Deletion:** taking away a sound, “*Hand* without the /h/ sound is *and*.”
- **Rhyming:** recognizing rhymes for given words, “*Bed* rhymes with *red* and *head*.”
- **Beginning Sounds - Pictures:** matching pictures' names that begin with the same sound, “*Ball* and *bed* both begin with the /b/ sound.”
- **Ending Sounds - Pictures:** matching pictures' names that end with the same sound, “*Hat* and *cat* both end with the /t/ sound.”

How to help at home: Play with words! Find words that begin like *sand* or end like *snap*, etc. Sing with rhymes. Count syllables in family members' names.

Comprehension means understanding what is read. Students need to be able to recall details, make predictions, connect the text to life experiences, distinguish fantasy from reality, and summarize.

- **Sentence Comprehension:** understanding sentences read aloud
- **Passage Comprehension:** understanding passages read aloud

How to help at home: Ask questions during and after reading. Ask for a short summary of a sentence and passage. Have student draw a picture of a sentence or passage. Encourage reading poetry, non-fiction, directions, fiction, and more.

Phonics is the study of how letters match sounds in words. It also includes understanding how letters go together to form words.

- **Letter Recognition:** recognition of named letters
- **Letter-Sound Identification:** matching sounds to letters
- **Beginning Sounds - Letters:** recognizing words with certain beginning sounds and the letters that match these beginning sounds

How to help at home: Look for letters on signs and labels. Encourage your student to write using sounds. Cut out specific letters from magazines and newspapers.

Vocabulary means understanding words and word meanings.

- **Word Concepts:** listening and responding to vocabulary in context
- **Word Recognition:** recognizing specific words that are not sounded out

How to help at home: Use new and interesting words in conversation. Cover a word in a book and guess the covered word. Discover unknown words in stories.

Writing is using print to convey meaning.

- **Dictation:** listening to and writing a dictated sentence
- **Writing Prompt:** drawing and writing a response to a question or given topic

How to help at home: Write down what your kindergartner says and have him/her read it back to you. Help your kindergartner write letters to friends, make signs, and write words. Spelling does not need to be perfect, concentrate on sounds in words.