

Early Reading Development

		Developing COW-T (Emergent Reader)	Rudimentary COW-T (Emergent to Beginning Reader)	Firm COW-T (Beginning Reader)
Student knowledge and skills look something like this...	Alphabet	Knows 0-20(ish) letters and sounds	Identifies almost all letters and sounds (but is not automatic)	Accurate and automatic knowledge of most letters and sounds
	Phonological Awareness	May have rhyme Does not distinguish between words and syllables	Knows that words may have one or more syllables (can clap for syllables)	Can segment and blend sounds
	Spelling	Scribbling or letter-like symbols Mix of letters and letter-like symbols Random letters May have some salient consonant sounds	Uses salient sound (e.g., "s" for "bus") Uses some initial consonants	Consistently uses initial or initial and final consonants, with or without a medial short vowel (vowel may be correct or incorrect)
	Reading Behaviors	Pretend reading that mimics teacher reading behaviors May or may not have directionality (left to right, or top to bottom) Inaccurate pointing (may point randomly or to letters) Does not touch under each word as recites the text Points to words but gets off-track on multisyllabic words (student may notice that there is a problem, but doesn't know what to do next) Identifies no or few words in context Identifies no or few words out of context	Points to words but gets off-track on multisyllabic words and can self-correct Identifies many words in context Identifies some words out of context (i.e., can identify some words seen in the text directly after working with them)	Consistently tracks print that includes multisyllabic words Identifies all words in context Identifies many words out of context (i.e., can identify most words seen in the text directly after working with them)