

Bethania Lutheran School

DRA Testing Protocols

In order to ensure consistency of testing across the school the staff have devised the following protocols for Diagnostic Reading Assessments in the school. Please adhere to these guidelines when testing and marking your class. If difficulties arise please discuss these with the Deputy Principal.

1. The texts may contain 'Americanisms' or culturally unfamiliar content. A brief explanation of these terms would be appropriate before commencing testing, particularly in the early years.
2. It is not appropriate to paraphrase either the text or questions for students.
3. Leading questions should be avoided during testing.
4. The stopwatch should be paused when children are talking off topic during testing. The teacher should redirect the child to the task and continue timing from there.
5. All testing should occur in the second and fourth terms to allow for consistent comparisons to be made across classes
6. Students should not be allowed to access the text during the recall, summary and paraphrasing aspects of the test
7. Teacher aides may be used to assist in scribing/recording for younger or special needs students, preparation of materials, and supervision of the class while the teacher is testing.
8. In years 3-7 the teacher should be completing all running records and marking of the test.
9. In years P-2, while it is preferable that the teacher completes the running records, a trained teacher aide may complete running records for some students. The teacher should have good knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of these students and be confident they will achieve average scores.
10. All marking and recording of results should be completed by the teacher in all year levels.
11. The strategies for testing special needs students whose needs may affect the outcome of the test (e.g. communication difficulties, ESL, autism, anxiety issues) will be negotiated on a case by case basis with the class teacher, Learning Support and Deputy Principal
12. Time limits should be adhered to within a 10% margin.
13. Grade level indicators as below

| | Beginning | Middle | End |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------|------------|
| Pre Year 1 | 34-35 | 36-39 | 40-43 |
| Year 1 | 44-45 | 46-49 | 50-53 |
| Year 2 | 54-55 | 56-59 | 60-63 |
| Year 3 | 64-65 | 66-69 | 70-73 |
| Year 4 | 74-75 | 76-79 | 80-83 |
| Year 5 | 84-85 | 86-89 | 90-93 |
| Year 6 | 94-95 | 96-99 | 100-103 |
| Year 7 | 104-105 | 106-109 | 110-113 |
| Beyond | 114-115 | 116-119 | 120-123 |