

Primary Spelling Inventory (PSI)

The Primary Spelling Inventory (PSI) is used in kindergarten through third grade. The 26 words are ordered by difficulty to sample features of the letter name–alphabetic to within word pattern stages. Call out enough words so that you have at least five or six misspelled words to analyze. For kindergarten or other emergent readers, you may only need to call out the first five words. In late kindergarten and early first grade classrooms, call out at least 15 words so that you sample digraphs and blends; use the entire list for late first, second, and third grades. If any students spell more than 20 words correctly, you may want to use the Elementary Spelling Inventory.

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|--------------|--|
| 1. fan | I could use a fan on a hot day. <i>fan</i> |
| 2. pet | I have a pet cat who likes to play. <i>pet</i> |
| 3. dig | He will dig a hole in the sand. <i>dig</i> |
| 4. rob | A raccoon will rob a bird's nest for eggs. <i>rob</i> |
| 5. hope | I hope you will do well on this test. <i>hope</i> |
| 6. wait | You will need to wait for the letter. <i>wait</i> |
| 7. gum | I stepped on some bubble gum. <i>gum</i> |
| 8. sled | The dog sled was pulled by huskies. <i>sled</i> |
| 9. stick | I used a stick to poke in the hole. <i>stick</i> |
| 10. shine | He rubbed the coin to make it shine. <i>shine</i> |
| 11. dream | I had a funny dream last night. <i>dream</i> |
| 12. blade | The blade of the knife was very sharp. <i>blade</i> |
| 13. coach | The coach called the team off the field. <i>coach</i> |
| 14. fright | She was a fright in her Halloween costume. <i>fright</i> |
| 15. chewed | The dog chewed on the bone until it was gone. <i>chewed</i> |
| 16. crawl | You will get dirty if you crawl under the bed. <i>crawl</i> |
| 17. wishes | In fairy tales wishes often come true. <i>wishes</i> |
| 18. thorn | The thorn from the rosebush stuck me. <i>thorn</i> |
| 19. shouted | They shouted at the barking dog. <i>shouted</i> |
| 20. spoil | The food will spoil if it sits out too long. <i>spoil</i> |
| 21. growl | The dog will growl if you bother him. <i>growl</i> |
| 22. third | I was the third person in line. <i>third</i> |
| 23. camped | We camped down by the river last weekend. <i>camped</i> |
| 24. tries | He tries hard every day to finish his work. <i>tries</i> |
| 25. clapping | The audience was clapping after the program. <i>clapping</i> |
| 26. riding | They are riding their bikes to the park today. <i>riding</i> |

Words Their Way Primary Spelling Inventory Feature Guide

Student's Name _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____ Date _____

Words Spelled Correctly: _____ / 26 Feature Points: _____ / 56 Total: _____ / 82 Spelling Stage: _____

SPELLING STAGES →	EMERGENT		LETTER NAME-ALPHABETIC			WITHIN WORD PATTERN			SYLLABLES AND AFFIXES			Words Spelled Correctly
	LATE	EARLY	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	Inflected Endings	Feature Points	
Features →	Consonants		Short Vowels	Digraphs	Blends	Long Vowel Patterns	Other Vowels	Inflected Endings	Feature Points	Words Spelled Correctly		
1. fan	Initial	Final	a									
2. pet	p	t	e									
3. dig	d	g	i									
4. rob	r	b	o									
5. hope	h	p				o-e						
6. wait	w	t				ai						
7. gum	g	m	u									
8. sled			e		sl							
9. stick			i		st							
10. shine				sh		i-e						
11. dream					dr	ea						
12. blade					bl	a-e						
13. coach				-ch		oa						
14. fright					fr	igh						
15. chewed				ch			ew	-ed				
16. crawl					cr		aw					
17. wishes				-sh				-es				
18. thorn				th			or					
19. shouted				sh			ou	-ed				
20. spoil							oi					
21. growl							ow					
22. third				th			ir					
23. camped								-ed				
24. tries					tr			-ies				
25. clapping								-pping				
26. riding								-ding				
Totals	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	56	26	

Appendix A

Words Their Way Primary Spelling Inventory Classroom Composite

Teacher _____	School _____	Grade _____	Date _____	EMERGENT		LETTER NAME-ALPHABETIC		WITHIN WORD PATTERN		SYLLABLES AND AFFIXES		Total Rank Order
				LATE	EARLY	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	LATE	EARLY	
SPELLING STAGES →	Consonants	Initial	Final	Short Vowels	Diagraphs	Blends	Long Vowels	Other Vowels	Inflected Endings	Correct Spelling		
Students' Possible Points	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	26	82	
1.												
2.												
3.												
4.												
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26.												
Highlight for instruction*												

*Highlight students who miss more than 1 on a particular feature; they will benefit from more instruction in that area.

