

What does VALLSS: Grades K-3 measure?

	VALLSS Subtests	Description	Examples
Code-Based	Letter Names	Name upper- and lowercase letters to measure letter name knowledge	Student names all 52 letters: C r w H
	Letter Sounds	Say letter sounds when presented with a pair of upper- and lowercase letters (e.g., Ee) to measure letter sound knowledge	Student provides the sounds of letters: Ff Pp Vv Oo
	Beginning Sounds Expressive	Say the first sound of a word or say a word that starts with the same sound as the given word to measure pulling sounds apart	Teacher says: "fruit" Student says the sound of the letter F or says a word that begins with the same sound as fruit, for example "fox"
	Phoneme Blending	Listen to sounds and blend them together to say a word to measure putting sounds together	Teacher says the sounds in dog: "/d/ ... /o/ ... /g/" Student blends the sounds together to say: "dog"
	Phoneme Segmenting	Listen to a word and break it into sounds to measure breaking sounds apart	Teachers says: "cat" Student provides the individual sounds in the word cat: "/c/ .../a/ .../t/"
	Encoding	Spell words to measure application of phonics skills	Teacher says: write the word "sled" Student: writes the word "sled" on a piece of paper
	Real Word Decoding	Read words to measure application of phonics skills	Student reads a list of real words, such as rain, pile, dream
	Pseudoword Decoding	Read made up words to measure application of phonics skills	Student reads a list of nonsense words that look like words, such as tain, zile, and pream
	Oral Reading Fluency (ORF)	Read passage to measure the number of words read correctly in one minute	Teacher gives the student the Oral Reading passage Student reads the passage for one minute
Language	Passage Retell	Listen to and retell a story to measure oral language knowledge and skills	Teacher tells the student a story, using illustrations Student retells the story using the illustrations
	Expressive Comprehension Questions	Answer questions after listening to a story to measure listening comprehension	Teacher asks questions about the story Student answers questions using their understanding of the story they heard
	Nonsense Sentences	Listen to and repeat recorded silly sentences to measure understanding of grammar usage	Teacher plays a recorded silly sentence: "The birds laughed at the flying dog." Student repeats the silly sentence: "The birds laughed at the flying dog."
	Relational Vocabulary	Choose a picture after listening to a sentence to measure vocabulary	Student points to one of four pictures that matches a sentence, such as "The ball is next to the house."
	Vocabulary Fluency	Say the name of pictures quickly to measure vocabulary	Student quickly names pictures shown on a screen. For example, the student is shown a picture of a camel and says "camel."
RAN	Rapid Automatized Naming (RAN): Letters	Say the name of repeated letters quickly to screen for processing difficulties	Student names letters repeated on a page, such as: X L D L

* Not all subtests are required at each grade level or at each assessment period.

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