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EDUC 301

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30 September 2007

### Reader Case Study: Phase I

This reader case study focuses on a second grade reader from Manchester Elementary. In order to assess the child's reading skills the researcher had to take time to get to know the student. Through the results of an "About Me Book" completed by the reader, and a reading sample, the researcher learned some key information. For instance, the reader's parents are divorced, and the child resides with the mother and a younger brother in an apartment in town. During the creation of the "About Me Book," the researcher recognized that the reader had trouble with the formation of the lower case "b", which was written as a lowercase "d." From the reading sample the researcher noticed the lack of fluency in the child's reading, which may be due to the reader's trouble with word recognition. After a discussion with the reader's teacher, the researcher learned that the student's greatest strength is in reading comprehension, and the reader's greatest weakness is word recognition.

Assessments to be used on this child will include an IRI, which will help the observer better determine the reader's strengths and weaknesses. It will show results in word recognition, word meaning, reading strategies, and comprehension (Using the Informal Reading Inventory). To begin, the reader will be asked to read a word list. If the child successfully completes a list he or she will move on to the next, until five words are missed in a list. After the completion of a list the child will be asked to take two of

the words and make sentence. This allows the administrator to see if the child understands the vocabulary. The word list portion of the IRI will be essential in the case of this particular second grade reader due to her weakness in word recognition. Along with the word recognition section are short passages where the researcher will do a running record and then test comprehension.

Another assessment to be used is STAR, which is a norm-referenced reading assessment. Its results provide the instructor with the student's reading level. This test is given on a computer, and when a question is answered correctly a more difficult question is presented. From talking with the teacher, the researcher learned that the reader is currently reading at 1.6 reading level, information that will be important in preparing a plan of action for this child.

The last assessment being used for this case study is the NWEA. NWEA like STAR is a computerized test that adjusts to the student. It assesses reading and math, giving teachers information on what a child has learned and what still needs to be learned. The results are given on a RIT scale. This particular student scored a 168 in reading from scores that range from 150 – 300 (Assessment and Evaluation). A teacher can look at the results from this assessment and see a breakdown in skills, providing them with important information on where a student struggles.

By using the results from these three assessments, the researcher will be able to better understand the reader's strengths and weaknesses. She can then take this information to prepare a plan of action for the reader that will help strengthen those areas of difficulty.

## Works Cited

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