

Handwriting Criterion-Referenced Assessment

Sample: (use lined paper)

- 1. Write your name (first name)**
- 2. Copy the alphabet**
- 3. Write the alphabet (assessor can provide a verbal reminder of the alphabet)**
- 4. Copy the sentence 'the quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog'**
- 5. Free write a sentence for a minute on the subject 'all about me'**

Legibility

Definition of Term

The letter and word can be clearly recognised *apart* from its context.
(Use 1, 2 and 3)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | Attempted letter are unrecognisable as such |
| 1 | 1-5 letters are recognisable when copied |
| 2 | Name is recognisable when free written along with 1-5 copied letters |
| 3 | Name is legible, and 5 additional letters are also recognisable when free written |
| 4 | Name is legible, and 10-15 letters are also recognisable when free written |
| 5 | All letters of the alphabet are recognisable. |

Accurate Letter Formation

Definition of Term

The letters are formed, commencing from the line, with correct direction of flow being demonstrated.
(Use 3 and 5)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 0 | All letters are incorrectly formed, despite being recognisable |
| 1 | 1-5 letters are correctly formed |
| 2 | 6-10 letters are correctly formed |
| 3 | 11-15 letters are correctly formed |
| 4 | 16-20 letters are correctly formed |
| 5 | All letters are correctly formed |

Uniformity of Letter Size

Definition of Term

Letter sizes are consistent; small letters being half the dimension of ascenders and descenders
(Use 4 and 5)

- 0 Attempted letters are illegible
- 1 Letters attempted are all the same size
- 2 Letters attempted are inconsistently small or large
- 3 5-10 letters are showing differentiation in size
- 4 4 out of the 7 ascenders are sized correctly (b,d,f,t,h,k,l); 3 out of the 5 descenders are sized correctly (p,q g, y j)
- 5 All letters show appropriate differentiation in size

Uniformity of Letter Slope

Definition of Term

The slant of the ascending and descending letter is consistently aligned to one another, using either a backward, upward or forward slant.
(Use 4 and 5)

- 0 Illegible lettering
- 1 attempted letters show erratic, inappropriate directionality
- 2 Some ascending letters show a consistent direction but this is not evident throughout the text
- 3 Descending letters show a consistent direction, but the direction of ascending letters remains erratic.
- 4 The majority of ascending and descending letters show a consistency in direction and alignment.
- 5 All letters show a consistent alignment.

Spacing between Words and Letters

Definition of Term

Spacing between words is emerging. Letters are grouped together to form appropriate words.
(Use 4 and 5)

- 0 No recognisable letters and no grouping attempted
- 1 Few letters attempted but no grouping
- 2 Spacing reliant on copying skills
- 3 Attempts are made to group letters into words but spacing is erratic
- 4 Spaces between words are developing with only occasional errors in spatial planning
- 5 Appropriate spaces between words are evident

Alignment of Writing on the Page

Definition of Term

Writing will start at the left hand side of the page and transfer across the page in a left to right direction

(Use 5)

- 0 Unrecognisable letters
- 1 Attempted letters are placed erratically on the page
- 2 Words are formatted together but do not maintain a horizontal alignment
- 3 Alignment across the page is attempted but writing drifts as writing progresses. Further writing does not acknowledge the original starting margin.
- 4 Alignment across the page is attempted but writing drifts slightly as writing progresses
- 5 Attempted words are consistently written from left to right in a horizontal plane

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