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Informal Phonics Inventory

What is the Informal Phonics Inventory?

The Informal Phonics Inventory is an individually administered assessment developed by Steven Stahl that examines a student's understanding of sound-symbol relationships and phonics patterns. It helps determine how well students apply phonics knowledge when reading words.

The inventory is administered when additional information about a student's decoding skills is needed.

What does it measure?

The inventory evaluates knowledge of:

- Letter-sound correspondences
- Short and long vowel patterns
- Consonant blends and digraphs
- Common vowel teams
- Multisyllabic word patterns
- Other phonics features appropriate to the student's development

Why do we use it?

The inventory identifies which phonics concepts students have mastered and which concepts require further instruction, allowing tutors to provide focused support.

How do the results inform instruction?

Tutors use the results to:

- Plan systematic phonics instruction.
- Reinforce specific decoding skills.
- Sequence instruction from easier to more complex concepts.
- Monitor mastery of phonics patterns over time.

Why it matters

Reading unfamiliar words depends on understanding how letters and sounds work together. This assessment helps tutors identify exactly where students are successful and where additional instruction will be most beneficial.