

## Reading Progress Rubrics: Third Grade

### About these Rubrics

Each rubric represents a continuum of skills, leading to grade-level proficiency. Grade-level proficiency represents information from a variety of states' content standards, including the Common Core standards. You might not find a one-to-one correspondence with your particular standards or curriculum. However, if students can perform the actions represented here as "grade level expectations," they will become strong, proficient readers over time.

### How to Use the Rubrics

These rubrics help you understand "next steps" learning. They ensure that your students have the foundation skill necessary to learn more complex skills. In this way, these rubrics will help you with lesson planning. The indicators for each are skill-based, not knowledge based (e.g., "the student will learn/know...") or conceptual (e.g., "the student will understand..."). The indicators are specific actions that you can observe.

As you work with students, pay attention to what you see them do. Then, decide which level they can perform all the behaviors. Does the student demonstrate all the skills for level 1? If so, look at level 2. Does the student demonstrate all the skills for level 2? If so, look at level 3. The student's reading level is the highest level at which he or she can consistently perform *all* the listed skills.

When you determine what level a student has mastered, your role is to develop instructional opportunities that will help students perform the skills in the *next* level. For example, if a student can consistently perform all the actions in level 2 but not level 3, you will provide instruction to help the student perform the skills in level 3.

### How Not to Use the Rubrics

Of course we want every student to read on or above grade level. Unfortunately, many students are not ready to begin learning grade-level skills. They do not have the background knowledge or foundational skills to learn grade-level skills.

As you look at these rubrics, do not focus on the grade-level skills (level 4) and provide instruction of those skills. If the students are not ready for them, they cannot learn them or will not be able to demonstrate them consistently in the long term. You have to pay attention to the developmental stages (levels 0 – 3).

### The Reading Levels

Each grade level and each reading component has 6 levels in these rubrics: level 0 through level 6.

Level 0: the student has no ability in that reading component or is significantly behind reading ability.

Levels 1–3: the student is making progress towards grade-level proficiency

Level 4: the student is on grade level; the specific items in bold face are the essential grade-level skills for that reading component

Level 5: the student has exceeded grade-level expectations for that reading component; use the next higher rubrics to determine next steps for learning

## Reading Progress Rubrics

Indicators in level 4 are the grade-level skills. Indicators in level 4 that are depicted in bold face type are the essential skills for a particular grade level. Any student who can demonstrate all level 4 skills is on grade level for that reading component area.

### A Few FAQs

#### 1. What If a Student is Below Level 0 for a grade level or specific reading component?

For kindergarten, level 0 means “no ability,” so there is nothing below level 0. For students in grades 1–8, however, it is possible to be below level 0. If you have a student in this situation, get a copy of the rubrics for the next grade group down. For example, if a 4th grade student cannot perform level 0 for a certain reading component, use the rubrics for grades 2–3. But keep the “correct” grade-level rubrics on hand: students will eventually be ready to perform the skills described by that rubric.

#### 2. What If a Student is Above Level 5 for a grade level or specific reading component?

First, that’s great! Second, that does not mean that you no longer need to provide instruction in that reading component. If the student can learn more, your job is to help him or her do it. Take a look at the rubrics for the next higher grade group and find the next level for learning.

#### 3. Are the rubrics sequential across grade levels? Does level 5 for one grade level correspond to level 0 for the next grade level?

No. Instead, they are overlapping. This reflects the fact that students in a grade level may be far behind (or above) expectations. Because they are overlapping, the rubrics will provide anticipated development for students in various grade levels. The rubrics are organized like this:

Level 0	<b>Kindergarten</b>	Level 5	
	Level 0	<b>First Grade</b>	Level 5

As a result, a student who can perform the grade-level skills for one rubric will not be at level 0 for the next higher rubric, though he or she might also not be ready to learn the grade-level skills represented on the next higher level rubric. As noted before, observe the student and determine what level the student has mastered, and then provide instruction to help the student master the next level.

***Rubric for Phonemic Awareness***

level:	0	1	2	3	4	5
2-3	<p>Student is able to identify beginning and ending sounds in 1 syllable words</p> <p>Student is able to identify rhyming 1 syllable words.</p>	<p>Student is able to blend and segment sounds in 1 syllable words.</p> <p>Student is able to identify rhyming 2 syllable words.</p>	<p>Student is able to blend and segment sounds in 2 syllable words.</p> <p>Student is able to change beginning and ending sounds of words to produce new words.</p> <p>Student is able to identify rhyming 2 syllable words.</p>	<p>Student is able to identify rhyme and alliteration in spoken words.</p> <p>Student is able to blend and segment of 2 syllable words, identifying all sounds within words.</p>	<p><b>Student is able to clap to rhythm</b> of spoken words, and <b>identify rhyme, and alliteration in</b> spoken words.</p> <p>Student is able to blend and segment 2 and 3 syllable words, identifying all sounds within words.</p>	<p>Student is able to blend and segment words of more than 3 syllables and identify syllables within words according to common conventions.</p> <p>Student is able to identify stressed and unstressed syllables in 2 and 3 syllable words.</p>

***Rubric for Phonics***

level:	0	1	2	3	4	5
2-3	<p>Student is able to recognize common one syllable words.</p>	<p>Student is able to decode high frequency one syllable words.</p> <p>Student is able to spell high frequency one syllable words using conventional or emergent spelling.</p>	<p>Student is able to decode high frequency one and two syllable words.</p> <p>Student is able to spell high frequency one syllable words using conventional spelling.</p>	<p>Student is able to decode words of two or more syllables.</p> <p>Student is able to use knowledge of phonics to spell high frequency one and two syllable words.</p>	<p><b>Student is able to apply phonics knowledge and structural analysis to decode words</b> of two or more syllables, and words <b>containing less common vowel patterns and syllable breaks.</b></p>	<p>Student is able to self-correct errors in decoding common one and two syllable words.</p> <p>Student is able to decode words of two or more syllables containing irregular vowel patterns.</p> <p>Student is able spell correctly words with less common vowel patterns.</p>

***Rubric for Fluency***

level:	0	1	2	3	4	5
2-3	The student is able to read aloud grade level text with accuracy 0-9 of 20 words.	Student is able to read aloud grade level text accurately 10-14 of 20 words.	Student is able to read aloud grade level text with comprehension and appropriate speed, accurately reading 15-18 of 20 words.	Student is able to read aloud grade level text with comprehension and appropriate speed, accurately reading 15-18 of 20 words.  Student is able to use phonics knowledge and context clues to confirm accurate decoding.	Student is able to read aloud grade level text with comprehension and appropriate speed, accurately reading 19 of 20 words.  Student is able to use phonics knowledge and context clues to confirm accurate decoding.	Student is able to read aloud grade level text with comprehension, expression and appropriate speed, accurately reading 19 of 20 words.  Student is able to use phonics knowledge and context clues to confirm accurate decoding.

***Rubric for Vocabulary***

level:	0	1	2	3	4	5
2-3	Student is unable to understand new words not in oral vocabulary	Student is able to use given definitions and resources to understand unknown words.	Student is able to classify words by word components (e.g., prefixes).  Student is able to use text, picture and story clues to discover probable meanings of unknown words.	Student is able to use abstract words to describe feelings and concepts.  Student is able to find substitutions (i.e., easier words or phrases) for difficult to understand words.  Student is able to use context clues to discover probable meaning of new words.	<b>Student is able to use reference materials to confirm spelling, and discover meanings of words.</b>  <b>Student is able to use context clues to discover meaning of unknown words.</b>  Student is able to use correctly 500 most common words in English.  Student is able to use words to describe abstract concepts.	Student is able to predict which words of a text will be difficult to understand, and seek meanings prior to reading.  Student is able to use context clues and word analysis to discover probable meaning of new words.  Student is able to use figurative language to describe abstract concepts.

***Rubric for Comprehension***

level:	0	1	2	3	4	5
2-3		<p>Student is able to give some descriptions of the characters of a story.</p> <p>Student is able to recall a few facts about a story in response to questions.</p>	<p>Student is able to give main events in a story and elaborate on events.</p> <p>Student is able to identify main characters and setting of a story</p>	<p>Student is able to listen to and retell short stories.</p> <p>Student is able to respond and elaborate in answering who, what, when, where questions.</p> <p>Student is able to independently recall facts and details of a story.</p> <p>Student is able to pose and answer how, why, and what questions to understand and interpret text.</p>	<p><b>Student is able to independently recall facts and details of a story.</b></p> <p><b>Student is able to pose and answer how, why, and what questions to understand and interpret text.</b></p> <p><b>Student is able to recognize own difficulty in comprehending text.</b></p> <p><b>Student is able to interact with a story before, during, and after reading by: previewing the text; asking questions, and locating information to answer questions.</b></p> <p><b>Student can make connections to own life of information or events in text.</b></p> <p><b>Student is able to summarize a story.</b></p>	<p>Student is able to summarize main events and the role and relationship of the characters in a story.</p> <p>Student is able to visualize and recall story details, including characterization, setting, sequence, actions and consequences, and implications of character’s actions.</p> <p>Student is able to identify and examine characters’ motives.</p>

***Rubric for Oral Language Development***

level:	0	1	2	3	4	5
2-3	<p>Student is able to pronounce and use simple common words.</p> <p>Student is able to use simple common words according to their dialectic definitions.</p> <p>Student is able to associate actions with subjects.</p> <p>Student will seek and share information.</p>	<p>Student is able to pronounce most words in oral vocabulary</p> <p>Student is able to use new words according to their dialectic definitions.</p> <p>Student is able to use modeled grammatical constructions.</p> <p>Student is able to distinguish among statements, commands, and questions.</p> <p>Student is able to share information on a topic.</p>	<p>Student is able to pronounce and use common words.</p> <p>The student is able to use appropriate nouns to name objects.</p> <p>Student is able use and descriptive words for objects.</p> <p>Student is able to recognize nonsense words.</p> <p>Student is able to speak in complete sentences.</p> <p>Student demonstrates turn-taking in conversations.</p> <p>Student will share information as relevant to a conversation.</p> <p>Student is able to make questions and needs clear.</p>	<p>Student is able to understand, recognize, and use irregular consonant combinations.</p> <p>Student is able to use irregular noun forms.</p> <p>Student will use words that describe color, size, location.</p> <p>Student is able to apply common affixes to words correctly.</p> <p>Student is able to speak in complete sentences.</p> <p>Student is able to speak using compound sentences.</p> <p>Student is able to use simple verb forms.</p> <p>Student is able to follow conventions for asking questions.</p> <p>Student demonstrates turn-taking in conversations.</p> <p>Student is able to follow simple oral instructions.</p>	<p>Student is able to recognize, understand, and use irregular vowel combinations.</p> <p><b>Student is able to use some literary words and techniques (e.g., figurative language).</b></p> <p>Student is able to use most common affixes.</p> <p>Student is able to speak using compound and complex sentences.</p> <p>Student is able to use correct subject verb and tense agreement.</p> <p>Student is able to respond appropriately when participating in discussion by adapting language and behaviors.</p> <p>Student is able to use commands and questions appropriately.</p> <p>Student is able to demonstrate active listening skills.</p> <p><b>Student is able to sustain conversation on a topic.</b></p>	<p>Student is able to determine correct word pronunciation by analysis of word components.</p> <p>The student is able to choose between standard and non-standard word choices as appropriate.</p> <p>Student is able to understand and use metaphoric language.</p> <p>Student uses correct pronoun identification, subject-verb agreement, verb tense agreement, and subject and tense consistency.</p> <p>Student is able to speak using compound-complex sentences structures, applying rules of correct grammar.</p> <p>The student is able to make presentations to inform or persuade, selecting language for impact.</p> <p>The student is able to use figurative language and a variety of speech patterns.</p>