Alphabet Recognition Uppercase

To assess students’ uppercase alphabet recognition, pull students aside individually. Using a copy of page 15, say to the student, “Put your finger on each letter and say the name of the letter. Skip the letter if you do not know its name.” As each child points to and names the letters, record responses on the Emergent Assessment Summary Sheet. Indicate substitutions by writing in what the student says. If the child identifies O as “zero” or I as “one,” ask what letter it could be. You can time students if you wish.

Note the ease with which students are able to name the letters. Do they respond quickly and confidently, or do they hesitate and perhaps recite the alphabet to help them recall the name of the letter? Students who score at least 16 are ready to be assessed on the lowercase recognition task.

Benchmarks

At the beginning of kindergarten, most students know the names of between 10 and 18 letters. At the end of kindergarten, students on average know all of their uppercase letters. Based on the PALS benchmarks, students who know more than nine letters often know many letter sounds and can benefit from further study of beginning consonant sounds through picture sorts.