

# **Understanding DIBELS 8 for Families**

Spanish Version Russian Version <u>Vietnamese Version</u>

## **Table of Contents**

Click on the topics listed below and the link will direct you to the information within this document.

Understanding the DIBELS 8 Test
Why Early Reading Skills Matter So Much
What Reading Tests Does My Child Take?
How Your Child Takes the Reading Test
What Do the Test Scores Tell Us?
How Can I Help My Child Read Better at Home?

## **Understanding the DIBELS 8 Test**

The DIBELS 8 test is a reading check-up given to young students, usually those in Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Teachers use the test three times a year to see how well students are learning the basic building blocks of reading, like sounding out words. In Colorado, this test also helps schools follow the <u>Colorado READ Act</u>, which is a law focused on making sure young students learn to read well.

## Why Early Reading Skills Matter So Much

Learning the basic skills of reading is important for kids before they finish 3rd grade. The DIBELS 8 test is a key tool that helps teachers figure out exactly what reading help each student needs next. It guides their teaching so every student can keep getting better.

#### What Reading Tests Does My Child Take?

Your child will take different parts of the reading check-up three times during the school year: once in the fall, once in the winter, and once in the spring. The material they read or use is always new—they will not have seen it before.

#### Here are the main skills they test, depending on their grade level:

- <u>Letter Naming Fluency:</u> How quickly they can say the names of individual letters.
- <u>Phonemic Segmentation Fluency:</u> How fast they can break down a spoken word into its separate sounds.
- <u>Nonsense Word Fluency:</u> How well they can **sound out made-up words** (like "bip" or "gop") using the letter sounds they know.
- Word Reading Fluency: How fast they can **read real words** when they see them alone.
- Oral Reading Fluency: How **smoothly and accurately** they can read sentences and paragraphs out loud.
- <u>Maze:</u> Reading a short story and then **choosing the correct** word to fill in a blank to show they understood the passage.

Assessment & Research 11/25

• <u>RAN:</u> How fast they **can name a series of common items** (numbers for D8) that are quickly shown. This checks how fast their brain can *find* and *say* information. (This test is usually only given once a year.)

**DIBELS 8 Subtests by Grade** 

К	Letter Naming Fluency Phonemic Segmentation Fluency First Sound Isolation* Nonsense Word Fluency Word Reading Fluency Rapid Automatized Naming	lst	Letter Naming Fluency Phonemic Segmentation Fluency Nonsense Word Fluency Word Reading Fluency Oral Reading Fluency Rapid Automatized Naming
2nd	Nonsense Word Fluency Word Reading Fluency Oral Reading Fluency Maze Rapid Automatized Naming	3rd	Nonsense Word Fluency Word Reading Fluency Oral Reading Fluency Maze Rapid Automatized Naming

<sup>\*</sup>First Sound Isolation is recommended at kindergarten beginning of year only for students who are unable to complete the Phonemic Segmentation Fluency measure.

# **How Your Child Takes the Reading Test**

Most parts of the DIBELS 8 reading check-up are done one-on-one. This means it's just your child and the teacher (or another adult). Your child will be asked to speak their answers out loud or read a passage out loud for exactly one minute for each part.

The Maze and RAN tests are a little different. With Maze, your child will sit at a computer or tablet and complete the three-minute task on their own. With RAN, students sit one-on-one with the teacher and share the computer screen for one to two minutes as they complete the task together.

#### What Do the Test Scores Tell Us?

The test scores give you and your child's teacher two main things:

- 1. One main score, which is the overall score for everything your child did.
- 2. Separate scores that show how your child did on each smaller part of the test.

These scores help the teacher see how well your child is doing in different skills. Your child's teacher will look closely at these results to figure out what to teach next. The teacher might change the way they teach (called differentiating) or give your child extra help (called interventions) if a skill is really tricky. If your child is much lower than they should be for their grade, they might be put on a special learning plan, called <u>READ Plan</u>.

## **How Can I Help My Child Read Better at Home?**

Your child's teacher will tell you about the test results soon after your child finishes taking the test. When you talk to the teacher, here are some good questions to ask:

- What do these scores really show about how my child reads?
- What skills is my child having trouble with? What is my child really good at when it comes to reading?
- What are some easy things I can do at home to help my child get better at reading?

Assessment & Research 11/25

The following are some helpful resources for you to help your child at home:

- <u>Amplify's Home Connect Site for Families</u> (available in Spanish as well)
- Colorado's Read with Me Today (available in Spanish as well)
- CDE's READ Act for Families
- Read Now Colorado
- <u>Cultivating Readers at Home (Spanish)</u>
- Supporting Your Child's Literacy Development
- <u>DIBELS Tips for Families</u>
- <u>Detailed Parent Guide</u> (<u>Spanish</u>)

Assessment & Research 11/25