

# Natural Phonics Primer™

## Oral Reading Speeds

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Rapid word processing speeds are an indicator of decoding automaticity. The faster a student can decode words while maintaining accurately, the higher the degree of automaticity. Good comprehension depends on decoding automaticity: higher automaticity makes possible higher comprehension.

In the rush for higher word processing speeds, it is very important not to skip any essential sub-skills. Whole-word readers sometimes appear to initially read faster than phonics-readers; but in the long run, their faulty word processing skills lead to lower automaticity and seriously compromised comprehension.

Processing skills (speed and accuracy) can be accurately measured by timing student's oral reading of Rudolf Flesch's *Exercises*. The times recommended by the *Victory Drill Book* reflect years of highly successful experience teaching the *Exercises* to children of every age. These speeds are an accurate measure of independent word processing skills, and they are an indication of developing automaticity, which in turn naturally promotes high level comprehension. They are one-minute timings.

### Minimum Speed for Page Mastery

Grade	Speed
Pre-Kindergarten	20 words per minute
Kindergarten	30 words per minute
First Grade	40 words per minute
Second Grade	55 words per minute
Third Grade	70 words per minute
Fourth Grade	85 words per minute
Fifth Grade	100 words per minute
Sixth Grade	115 words per minute
Seventh Grade	130 words per minute
Eight Grade	130 words per minute

Once the students have mastered the *Exercises*, they should start every year with a review of all 72 *Exercises*. Each student's speed should be measured to assure that they are able to read the words at the calibrated speed for their grade level. This review is very valuable and will assure that no student will develop whole-word dyslexia through overexposure to debilitating sight-word books. Exclusive attention to sight-word readers (grade level readers) can seriously erode the student's decoding skills. Challenging vocabulary requiring intense attention to decoding enables students to maintain and improve their word processing skills and enhance their comprehension skills.



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## Exercise Progress Chart

### Oral Reading Speeds

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

1 <u>Step 1</u>	2	3 Review	4	5 Review	6	7 Review	8	9 Review
10	11	12 Review	13 <u>Step 2</u>	14	15	16 Review	17	18
19 Review	20	21	22 Review	23	24 <u>Step 3</u>	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	32	33 Review	34	35	36
37	38 Review	39	40 <u>Step 4</u>	41	42	43 Review	44	45 Review
46	47 Review	48	49	50 Review	51	52	53	54 Review
55	56	57 Review	58	59 Review	60 <u>Step 5</u>	61	62	63 Review
64 Review	65	66	67	68 Review	69	70	71 Review	72