

Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills 6th Edition

DIBELS

DIBELS Oral Reading Fluency Progress Monitoring First Grade Student Materials

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Available:

<http://dibels.uoregon.edu/>

Instructions:

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The Ant Hill

Dad and I took a hike in the woods. We walked for a long time and stopped to take a rest. We sat down on a log and had a drink of water. A big hill was nearby.

Dad said, "Look, there's an ant hill."

I walked up to the hill and took a closer peek. At first it looked just like a dirt hill. Then I noticed a few ants running around. I looked closer. I saw little ants carrying pieces of mushroom. The pieces were almost as big as the ants.

"What are they doing, Dad?" I asked.

"They're taking food inside the hill. They probably have thousands of ants to feed inside." Dad said, "Watch this." He gently poked a twig into a small hole on the hill. All of a sudden, many ants came out.

"The ants are on alert, trying to protect their hill," he said.

I bent down to look closer. Some ants climbed on my shoes.

"We should leave now," Dad said. Dad and I walked and walked until we were home. Now whenever I see one ant, I stop and think about the city of ants they might be feeding and protecting.

The Rainy Day Picnic

I was so sad. This was the day we were going to the park for a picnic. I wanted to go to the playground. I wanted to swing. I wanted to lay on the grass and look up at the fluffy clouds. But that morning it was raining. There were puddles everywhere. And we could hear thunder. I started to cry.

My mother said, “Wait! We will still have the picnic!”

I cried, “But how? It won’t be fun if it’s wet!”

She told me to sit down and read a book. Then she said she’d make an indoor picnic for us. I could hear her doing things in the kitchen. She told me not to look. Then, when she was ready, she said to come into the living room.

I saw a blanket on the rug. I saw the picnic basket full of sandwiches and potato chips and fruit. I saw pillows to lie on. My mother was wearing her straw hat and sunglasses.

“Come on,” she said. “It’s picnic time!”

It was the best rainy-day picnic I ever went to.

Visiting Aunt Rose

My Aunt Rose invited me to spend the weekend. Aunt Rose doesn't have kids. She said I could be her kid for two days. She's like my big sister.

I like to go to visit my Aunt Rose's home. She likes to do the same things I like. I like to go swimming. So does my Aunt Rose. The pool where she goes also has a hot tub. I like to sit in the hot tub. So does my Aunt Rose. I always bring my swimming suit when I visit.

Our weekend was perfect. On Saturday we went out for breakfast. I had strawberry pancakes with whipped cream. Then we went shopping. She bought me a pink shirt. Then we went swimming and sat in the hot tub.

On Sunday she helped me make oatmeal cookies. Then we painted each other's nails. Our fingers and toes match. They are bright pink. Then we went to the movies. We saw *The Lion King*.

Aunt Rose drove me home. I handed my mother a plate of the oatmeal cookies. I showed my brother my new shirt. Dad admired my bright pink nails.

"Dad," I asked, "Could I live at Aunt Rose's?"

"No," he said. "If you went there all the time it wouldn't be a special treat."

The Robin's Nest

There was a robin's nest outside our kitchen window. The nest was in a tall bush. The mother robin sat in the nest all day long. One day when I was watching, the mother bird flew away. I saw the eggs she was sitting on. There were four blue eggs.

I watched and watched. Pretty soon the eggs started to move. I watched some more until the eggs started to crack. Finally, the eggs hatched. I saw four baby birds. The baby birds opened their beaks wide. I heard them peeping. Soon the mother bird came back. Then the mother robin put worms in their mouths.

Every day I watched the baby birds and their mother. Pretty soon the babies were so fat there was no room for the mother. Then one morning the nest was gone from the bush.

"Mom!" I cried. "Something has happened to the robins!"

We went outside and looked around. The nest lay on the ground. It was still in one piece. But there were no robins anywhere. Just then, we heard chirping. We looked up, just in time to see five robins fly away.

Goodbye, little robins!

My Rock Collection

I started a rock collection. It began when I visited the coast. There were so many rocks on the beach. They were wet and shiny from the water. They came in many beautiful colors. They were pink, green, black, and white. Some rocks had been worn by the waves. One even had a hole in it. When the rocks dried they were not so colorful.

I found more rocks when we went to the desert. They are made of sandstone. They are dark red and tan. They are rough. Some sparkle like gold and silver.

When we went to the mountains I found more rocks. They are red and full of little holes. They are called lava. Lava is rock that became so hot it melted. Then it cooled. There are different kinds of lava. Some kinds of lava are shiny and black. They feel like glass.

My favorite rocks came from the river. They are round and smooth. They got that way when the water ran over and over them.

I like rock collecting. Wherever I go, I can pick up new rocks. It doesn't cost a penny. I keep my rocks in a shoebox under my bed. I'm going to take them to school for sharing day.

The Snow Person

This morning when I woke up it was freezing cold. I looked out and the ground was covered with white. It had snowed during the night. Mom said there would be no school because of the snow. She said I could go outside and play in the snow. I had to eat a hot breakfast first.

I dressed in my warm clothes. I wore mittens and a stocking cap. Mom helped me with my rubber boots. I was so bundled up I could hardly walk.

The grass was covered with soft snow and it was very quiet. Then all my friends came out to play. It wasn't quiet for long! My friends helped me make a snow person. We made snowballs first. We rolled them up until they were big. Then we stacked three big balls of snow on top of each other.

Mom let us use one of Dad's old hats. We used rocks for buttons and eyes. My friend found a carrot to use for the nose. We made arms from branches and ears from small snowballs. Our snow person sure looked handsome.

Then we lay down on the snow. We moved our legs and arms back and forth. That's how you make snow angels. Mom brought out cups of steaming hot chocolate. They had marshmallows on top and tasted wonderful.

The next morning all that snow had melted. Only the hat lay where the snow person had been.

The Cell Phone

My dad has a cell phone. He's a salesman and drives all over the state. He uses the cell phone to let people at his work know what his customers need. He can ask someone at the office to help a customer before he returns. He can call home and tell us he's going to be late.

Until last week my mother didn't have a cell phone. She said she didn't need one. She said we had more important things to spend our money on. Then on the way home her car ran out of gas. She was way out in the country. It was almost dark. She had to walk a long way to a house and ask to use the phone. Then she had to walk back to the car and wait for the tow truck to come.

When she tried to call us our line was busy. I started to worry because she was very late. My dad didn't know where she was. Finally she got home. It was almost my bedtime.

My mom said, "I think I am ready for a cell phone now."

My dad said, "You are right. We will buy you one tomorrow. Then you will feel safe and I won't worry."

The New Baby

The family next door has a new baby. The baby is a little girl. Her name is Robin. She was born about two months ago. Everyone on our street is happy about the new baby. Nobody else on our street has a baby. All the kids in our neighborhood are older.

It was pretty quiet at night before baby Robin came. But Robin cries a lot at night. Her crying wakes me up. My mother says she has her days and nights all mixed up. Mom says she isn't old enough to know nights are for sleeping. She doesn't know her days are for eating, growing, and playing.

During the day Robin sleeps almost all the time. She never hears dogs barking or the radio. If the doorbell or phone rings, she keeps on sleeping. She doesn't wake up when I come home from school. She never wakes up when we play hide and seek in her yard.

Then one night Robin slept the entire night. Everyone in our family had a good night's sleep. Then Robin was wide awake the next day. When I came home from school Robin was still awake. Her mother said I could hold her on my lap. She looked at me and smiled. I like Robin but I'm glad she lives next door.

A Birthday Party for Twins

I went to a birthday party last week. It was for my two friends. They are twins. That means they look just the same. They have the same birthday. They are in my class at school.

My mom and I went shopping for presents. I picked out two presents. I got a red yo-yo and a book.

Lots of people came to the party. The twins got many presents. The best part of the party was the food. There were hot dogs and hamburgers. They even had two birthday cakes. One cake was chocolate and one was angel food. There were two flavors of ice cream. I liked the mint chip best. There were two flavors of punch, too. I tried them both.

I liked everything I tasted. When I got home my tummy hurt. I think I ate too much. Next time I go to a party I will not eat so much. I won't eat two kinds of cake. I will just eat one kind. I won't eat a hot dog and a hamburger. I won't have two cups of punch. I won't have two dishes of ice cream, either. I will just have one dish. Then I can have a good time at the party and not get a tummy ache.

The Train Trip

Mom and I went to visit Grandpa. We rode all the way across the state. I never had to wear a seat belt. That's because we rode on the train.

I like to ride the train. I can walk all around the train car whenever I want. We never have to pull over at a rest stop. I can make my seat lay down almost like a bed. If we get hungry or thirsty we can buy snacks.

There is even a kid's room with toys and games. Once they showed a movie. I made friends with a boy my age.

When you get on the train they tell you where to sit. Someone comes and takes your tickets. The suitcases go over the seats.

I like watching everything zip by when the train goes fast. Sometimes the train goes faster than the cars. The whistle blows when the train goes over crossings. You can look in people's back yards. I waved at some people as we went by. They waved back.

Finally we got to Grandpa's city. I could see him waiting for us. He waved and came to pick up our suitcases. Next week we'll go home the same way we came, on the train.

The Ice Cream Truck

It was so hot yesterday. I was tired of running in the sprinkler. I was tired of splashing in the wading pool. I was tired of drinking ice cold water. I didn't want to play. It was too hot.

Then I heard it! Familiar music was playing somewhere. It was coming closer and closer. I knew that music. It came from the ice cream truck. It was not far away.

I asked my babysitter if we could buy something cold to cool ourselves off. She said yes and gave me some money. I went outside and waited. The ice cream truck came closer and closer. But it kept stopping. Other kids were buying cold treats.

“His truck will be empty when he gets here,” I said.

My babysitter said, “Just wait, it's a hot day and all the kids want a treat.”

Pretty soon there were five kids waiting for the ice cream truck. Finally he arrived and got out of the truck. I ran over and asked what kind of treats he had.

He said, “I'm all out of everything except root beer Popsicles. Will that be okay?”

I nodded. Root beer Popsicles are my favorite. I took my Popsicle and went back to our yard. I sat under the maple tree and ate it. It was so good. It cooled me off. I felt so much better.

The Tea Party

My friend and I opened my dress-up box. She saw all the clothes inside. She wanted to play dress-up with me. So we put on dresses. We wore hats and gloves. We put on high heeled shoes. We pretended we were grown-ups.

Then we went outside. I rang the doorbell. We waited. When my mother opened it she looked surprised.

“Well, hello, ladies,” she said. “What are your names?”

I said, “Our names are Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Baker.”

She asked if we’d like to come in for a tea party. We said yes. She told us to come in and sit in the dining room.

Then she went into the kitchen. She got out china cups and the tea pot. She boiled water and made tea. She poured it in our tea cups. She put fancy cookies on a plate. She sat down beside us. She put on a purple hat. She still acted like we really were ladies.

We drank our tea and tasted the cookies. She said we could come for tea again sometime. After my friend left I asked my mother if she knew who we really were. She just smiled.

The Beach

I love going to the beach. It is fun to run on the wet sand. I like it when the big waves come. The salty water splashes on my toes. I also like making sand castles. I always write my name in the sand with a stick. When the tide comes in, the water washes my name away.

One of my favorite things to do at the beach is to watch the animals. The seagulls wait for the tide to come in. Their feet make trails on the sand. The crabs hurry to get back in their holes under water. The sea lions pop their heads up in the waves. The sea lions have big brown eyes and bark like dogs.

Sometimes the water is too cold to go swimming. Then I search for things in the sand. I find pieces of driftwood and seaweed. I look for shells and sand dollars. Sometimes I find pretty shells. I like to take them home. I keep the shells on a shelf in my bedroom. Whenever I want to, I look at the shells in my room. I think about the fun I have at the beach.

The Farmer's Market

I like summer because we go to the farm to buy fresh fruit and vegetables. You can buy big red tomatoes and corn on the cob. They sell peaches, melons and berries. My favorites are corn and peaches.

Sometimes we pick the fruit right off the trees or bushes. Sometimes the farmer has already picked it and puts it in baskets. He puts out samples to taste.

Once we picked black cherries. They were so good. You could eat as many as you wanted to. We could even reach the cherries from the ground.

We can also pick flowers to take home. Sometimes we can pet the sheep and goats. We always ask first. The farm dog is always happy to see us. She likes to be petted, too.

When fall comes we go to the same farm and pick out pumpkins. They sell apples and nuts. You can sample fresh apple cider. We bought an apple pie to take home.

Last year we walked in the farm's corn maze. I could hide in the tall corn. I almost got lost. We went on a wagon ride through the apple trees. We saw a giant pumpkin. It was so big nobody could take it home.

My Big Sister

I have a big sister. She is six years old and I am four. We play together sometimes. I like to play with her, but there are times she makes me upset. She can be a bully. Sometimes she takes my playthings away from me. She can be mean to me. I don't like it when she's mean. But she says I'm just her little brother.

So I tell my parents. Then my sister gets into trouble and gets punished. She has to take a time out and stay in her bedroom. She can't come into my bedroom. Then she acts nice again. Mom says she is learning how to be a nice big sister.

We're getting a new baby at our house next month. We don't know if it's a boy or a girl. I hope it's a brother so I can play trucks with him. My sister hopes it's a sister so she can play dolls with her.

No matter what it is, a boy or a girl, soon I will be a big brother. But I'm not going to upset the baby. I won't make the baby cry and I'm not going to be a bully. I won't take playthings away. I'll be nice, not mean, and I won't need any time outs.

I can't wait for our new baby to come.

Camping at Home

My brother and I have a pup tent. Our uncle used it when he went backpacking. It's too small for him now. Dad helped us put it up in the back yard. It's just big enough for my brother and me. We put our sleeping bags inside. They fit perfectly.

Dad said, "Now you can camp in the backyard."

He said we could make a camp under the maple tree. My uncle said we could use his old backpack and dishes in the camp. We had to pretend to have a campfire. We pretended to prepare dinner. We pretended to eat hot dogs and roast marshmallows.

It was getting dark. Dad asked us if we wanted to sleep outside.

"Sure!" we said.

We climbed into our sleeping bags. Dad and Mom zipped them up. Dad gave us each a flashlight.

"We'll leave the door open," he said.

Mom said, "You can come into the house anytime you want."

They said good night and went in the house. They turned out the lights. We were all by ourselves. Then we heard strange noises outside. We missed our beds. So we came in and went to sleep in our own beds. But we still camp during the day!

My Lemonade Stand

It was a very hot day and I was bored. My sister was bored, too. I asked my mom what we could do. She said we could have a lemonade stand. But she said we couldn't argue. We said we would get along.

I was in charge of the sign and the stand. I found a card table and put it on the sidewalk. I took out two chairs. Then I made a sign. It said, "Lemonade, ten cents."

My sister made the lemonade. She took out lemons and sugar and water. She added ice cubes. Mom gave us a plastic jug to use. She said we could use plastic cups, too.

Even before we sat down the mailman stopped.

"It's a hot day and I could use a cool drink," he said.

Then some big kids on bikes stopped. They bought two cups each. By the end of the day we had sold twenty cups of lemonade. My sister had to make the lemonade three different times. We counted our money. We had made three dollars.

But my mom said the best part was that my sister and I worked together.

"I'm proud of you," she said. "You can have a lemonade stand another day, if you want."

The Frog

I heard a frog outside. It said, “rivet, rivet.” I went to see where it was. I looked under the porch. I looked under the car. I looked all around the backyard. I even looked in the garbage can but I could not see a frog.

I kept hearing the frog, so I sat on the porch and listened. When I heard it again, it sounded like it was so close I could touch it. I looked all around me, but I still could not see the frog. I waited until the sun went down and the moon came up. I couldn’t wait any longer because it was my bedtime. My mother said it was bedtime and I had to go inside. I heard the frog again when I was in bed.

“Mom,” I called. “The frog is still outside. Can I keep searching for it?”

“No,” she said. “It’s too late and you have to go to sleep now. You can look tomorrow.”

The next day I sat outside where I thought the frog was. I sat really quietly to see if I could hear the frog. I thought I saw something move in the grass. Then the frog just jumped up out of the grass. It came right up to me. It made the same sound again, “rivet, rivet.”

I think that frog was saying hello to me.

The Best Birthday Present

My favorite birthday present ever was from great-grandma. She gave me a crisp ten dollar bill! It was the most money I've ever had to spend.

I thought and thought about how to spend it. I could take a friend to the movies. My friend and I could go to the wave pool. I could buy a new book. I could spend it on candy. I could buy myself a new T-shirt. Or, I could go to the toy store.

I decided to go shopping. The toy store is full of neat things. First I looked at games. They all cost more than ten dollars. Then I looked at the magic tricks. I already had most of them. The puzzles cost too much, too. Then I looked at the sports equipment. Everything cost a lot more than ten dollars.

Then I saw the books. There were rows and rows of them. I spotted a joke book. It looked just right for me. It was only five dollars. I asked mom if my friend and I could go for ice cream. She said yes. We had chocolate ice cream sodas for five dollars.

I think I really got my money's worth with that ten dollars. I have a new book and my friend and I had a special treat.

My Soccer Team

I am so happy! I just found out I can be on the soccer team. We have our first practice on Saturday. We practice at my school right after lunch.

Our team is called the Blue Bombers. Our colors are blue and white so I get to wear blue shorts and a blue and white shirt. The number on my shirt is seven. I'm seven years old, too. I think seven must be my lucky number.

We play our first game next week on Saturday. I can't wait to play. My dad said if I practice a lot I will do well at the games. My dad is going to practice with me tonight.

Right after dinner my dad is going to take me to the store to buy some soccer shoes and a soccer ball. Then we will play on the grass by my school. My dad will help me to kick the ball and to run fast and kick the ball at the same time.

I am so excited I don't think I will get to sleep tonight. I need to sleep so that I can be rested and strong for my soccer practice.