

Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills 6th Edition

DIBELS

DIBELS Oral Reading Fluency Progress Monitoring Second Grade Student Materials

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Available:

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Riding the Bus to School

I ride a big yellow bus to school. I stand on the corner of our street with my friends and we wait for the bus. My friend's grandma waits with us. When it's raining, she holds an umbrella to keep us dry. Sometimes when it's cold she brings us hot chocolate.

I leave my house to walk to the bus stop after my parents go to work. I watch the clock so I know when to leave. Sometimes mom phones me from her office to remind me. Sometimes she can't call, so I have to be sure to watch the time.

Our bus driver puts his flashing yellow lights on and then stops right next to us. When he has stopped he turns the red lights on so all the cars will stop. He makes sure we are all sitting down before he starts to go. He watches out for us very carefully.

My friends and I are the first ones to be picked up by the bus. We like to sit right behind the bus driver and watch while he picks up all the other kids. We know where everyone lives. By the time we get to our school, the bus is almost full. Sometimes the kids get noisy and the driver has to remind us to keep it down. He says their noise makes it hard for him to concentrate and drive safely. I am glad that our bus driver is so careful.

Twins

Six years ago my family grew from two people to four people in one day. That was the day my sister and I were born. That was the day Mom and Dad had to start buying two of everything. My mom and dad say we were much more than twice the work of one baby. They also said we gave back more than twice as much love and fun.

We look just alike because we are identical twins, but we don't act just the same. My sister likes peas and beans and I hate them. I like grape juice and she likes apple juice. She likes to read. I would rather climb a tree than read a book.

Mom and Dad are the only ones who can tell us apart when we dress the same. They know the secret. I have a mole on my ear and my sister doesn't. We look so much alike that we can even fool Grandma and Grandpa.

It's nice to be a twin sometimes. We always have someone our own age who will share our secrets. Sometimes we don't want to share everything. Sometimes it is nice to have my mom or my toys all to myself. Dad says we aren't really that much alike because no person is exactly like anyone else.

Open House at My School

We had open house at my school last week. My whole family went: my mom, my grandma, and I. We sat together at my table in my room. It was a tight squeeze for my mom and grandma, but they made it. My class has second and third graders in it. Some of my friends were there and their families came, too. My best friend was there. His stepfather and mother sat with him at his table. They took up the whole table because his little brother came along. I waved at him.

My other friend and her big sister came, too. Their family had two classes to visit at the same time because her brother goes to my school, too. Her mom went to her brother's room, and her big sister came to her room.

I like my teacher a lot. Our room looked really nice. Our teacher had been saving all of our best penmanship and drawings. They were hung all over the walls. My grandmother could tell right away which ones were mine. She used to be an artist. She says I take after her.

My teacher told all the parents how important it is for them to make sure we do our homework. He said anytime they have questions about us they can talk to him. Afterwards he talked to my mom and me. He said what a good job I was doing and my mom gave me a big hug when we left.

Colors of the Rainbow

I decided my favorite color is the rainbow. It has all the colors in it: red, yellow, blue, green, and purple. They are all my favorite colors. How could I ever choose just one?

Red makes me feel like smiling. I love red cards and shiny red apples. My favorite type of candy is a red gum drop. My favorite flower is a red rose. I'm happy when I get to see a red sunset.

Blue makes me feel like taking a nap. My bed is fluffy blue and white with clouds all over it. I love the blue sky and ocean. Blue bubble gum is the best flavor of ice cream.

Yellow makes me feel like jumping rope. I love the sun in summer and the full moon in the fall. Our meadow is full of yellow flowers that dance in the breeze. Applesauce is one of my favorite treats, and it is kind of yellow. Fuzzy yellow ducklings always make me laugh.

Green makes me feel like climbing a tree. I love playing in the grass and the fields. Green gummy bears and pears are my special snacks. My favorite place to go is a park filled with trees and grass.

Purple makes me feel like eating grapes. I use my purple crayon so much it is almost gone. My favorite backpack is purple, too. Whenever anyone asks me what my favorite color is, I tell them it is a rainbow.

The Wind Has a Job to Do

I learned that the wind is important for more than flying kites or making our wind chime make music. Without the wind, our world wouldn't have any people, food, or animals. Wind moves the heat from the sun all around the planet. Without the wind, about half of the earth would be too hot for any living thing. Most of the rest of the earth would be too cold. In fact, most of our country would be under ice.

Wind is useful to all living things. It brings moisture up from the oceans into the air. Then the wind blows the moisture around. The moisture falls as rain, dew, or snow and ice.

Many plants and trees depend on the wind. The wind helps them spread their seeds to new places. Wind also blows pollen around so trees, grass, and grains can ripen. Without the wind, farmers couldn't grow corn or wheat. Bees help the wind spread pollen. Their job is to fly from blossom to blossom with pollen on their feet and wings.

You can see for yourself how the wind spreads seeds. The next time you see a yellow dandelion that has turned into a white puffball, blow it. Or, if you find a maple tree seed with wings that looks like a helicopter, throw it. You'll see all of the seeds go flying and you will be helping the wind do its job.

Writing My Life Story

Today our teacher said we would each write a story. She said if we wanted we could draw pictures to go with it. I decided to write my life story. I started with the night I was born. I drew a picture of me as a tiny baby. I wrote about what my first words were and how I liked to play.

When I was little I was always making tall towers. My grandfather said he thought I would build hotels when I grew up. I drew a picture of me playing with my blocks.

I also liked to ride my scooter and swing on the swings in the park. I drew pictures of me on my scooter and a picture of my dad pushing me on the swing. The next picture is of me licking an ice cream cone and getting it all over me. I still love chocolate ice cream.

Then I wrote about my first day at school. I wrote about how I cried and cried because I didn't want my mother to leave me. I made a drawing of me with a sad face. The last page is about my last birthday party. I drew of picture of me blowing out the candles on my birthday cake. There are six candles and I blew them all out.

I'm a Good Babysitter

When I turned twelve years old I got to babysit for the first time. My aunt asked my parents if I could babysit my cousin. My aunt and uncle wanted to go to the movies. They said they would pay me! My cousin is two and still wears diapers. She knows me pretty well because my mother and my aunt are sisters. We spend a lot of weekends together and we live in the same town.

My parents talked it over and said yes. My uncle picked me up after supper and took me to their house. My cousin was waiting at the door. She was ready for bed and wearing her slippers. My aunt told me when to change her and put her in bed.

My aunt said we could both have graham crackers and apple juice for a snack and that my cousin loved bedtime stories. She gave me her cell phone number in case I had a problem. Mom called me about three times while I was babysitting. She said it was to make sure I was doing okay.

My cousin didn't even cry when her mom and dad drove away. I read her *Goodnight, Moon* and *Pat the Bunny*. I washed her face and changed her. She didn't even cry when I put her in bed. Once my aunt called to see if everything was all right. I just watched TV until they came home. I think babysitting is fun and I hope my aunt asks me again.

Playing Shuffleboard With Grandpa

There is a shuffleboard court where my grandpa lives. Most of the men there play shuffleboard. Grandpa likes to play and sometimes he takes me with him. He says I can be his partner anytime. Grandpa is a very good player and often wins.

Shuffleboard is played on a very smooth walk. Grandpa waxes the walk before a game. Each player uses a long stick to push disks down the walk. You try to get the disks into spaces marked with numbers. You can get seven, eight, or ten points. You can lose ten points if your disk lands in the wrong section. You have to be very careful about how you push the disks.

Grandpa taught me how to play shuffleboard when I was five. He says the secret to playing well is to push the disk very smoothly. If you push too fast, the disk goes much too far. If you jerk the stick, it goes off the side of the court.

Last week there was a special family day at my grandpa's place. There were contests and games for people to play. Grandpa said I could be his partner in shuffleboard. We got the most points of any of the other teams and won a blue ribbon. Grandpa says I'm the shuffleboard champ of all time.

I Want to Fly in Space

When I grow up I want to fly in space. I have my plan all worked out. First I will go to college and then I am going to learn how to fly planes. I will fly very fast planes that can go faster than the speed of sound. When I can fly planes very well, I will learn how to fly space ships.

I will get to wear a silvery space suit and live inside a space ship. I will be inside the space ship when we blast into space. When I am up in space, I will watch the sun and moon come up every day. I will be so close to the stars that I can count them. Maybe I will see other space ships and wave as they go by. I will float around whenever I want. It will be just like flying.

I will get to put on my space suit and walk in space. When I look down I will see the green and blue earth far below. I might even be able to see where I live. I will be on TV to describe what I see. The whole world will be watching and listening to me.

When we get to the moon, I will walk all across the surface. It will be dusty and crunchy. I will pick up samples of moon rocks to bring back. I want to drive all over the moon in a little moon buggy. I will plant the flag on the moon. I might even see some little green aliens running around. I can't wait to fly in space.

The New Bookstore

Grandma said, “I want to take you and your sister to the new bookstore at the mall.” She picked us up from school and drove us to the mall. The bookstore is huge. There are books on pets, gardens, hobbies, and travel. There are rows of magazines and papers. There are tapes, videos, greeting cards, and calendars.

The new bookstore is so big it even has a place to get something to eat. We asked Grandma if we could have a snack. She said that we could have cookies and juice. Grandma had coffee.

Grandma wanted to look at the cookbook section. She showed us where she would be. Then she took us to the children’s corner. It was perfect for us. There were pillows and stuffed toys everywhere. The tables and chairs were all our size. There were more books than I had ever seen in one place. It was even bigger than the library. My sister started looking at picture books. I found books about magic tricks.

Grandma found us and said she was almost ready to go. She said because we were so good we could each pick out a book to buy. My sister got *When You Give a Mouse a Cookie*. I got a book about secret magic tricks.

We Celebrate Kwanzaa

One holiday celebrated by African Americans is Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa means a gathering time like Thanksgiving. It means not only the gathering of foods for the winter, but also the gathering of family. It began in Africa many years ago. The holiday reminds us of the way of life of the first African Americans.

In America, houses are decorated in black, red, and green for Kwanzaa. Black stands for the color of the people. Red reminds us of our struggle. Green is for Africa and hope. Seven candles are on the table, one for each rule for how to live. An ear of corn for each child in the family is on the table. Everyone wears colorful African clothes.

The party lasts for seven days, from the day after Christmas to New Years' day. We do not eat during the day. Every night we feast and light a new candle. For dinner we have chicken and catfish. We add greens, black-eyed peas and corn bread. For dessert we have sweet potato pie and carrot cake. After dinner we play music and dance.

Kwanzaa is also a time for older family members to tell stories. We remember those who have lived before us. On the sixth night we give presents to each other. Kwanzaa is a very special time for our family.

When Grandpa and I Garden

When I visit Grandpa he lets me help him in his garden. Grandpa says I have a green thumb. I don't know why he says that because my hands always get dark brown from the dirt.

We made a space in his garden just for me to grow things. We pulled up the weeds and made the dirt smooth and flat. Grandpa showed me how to use a hoe. He let me pick seeds to plant. I like to eat radishes and carrots so I wanted to plant those. I have one row of each. Grandpa likes strawberries so he grows those. He said I could eat some anytime I want.

Together we planted four rows of corn and two rows of beans. Grandpa also planted potatoes and squash. The plants are starting to come up now. At first they were so tiny I could hardly see them. When the days warmed up, the plants shot up like weeds. Now the strawberries are turning red.

It's a lot of work having a garden. We have to keep it watered and pull the weeds. We have to watch out for bugs and slugs. All the work is worth it when the strawberries are ready to pick. We have strawberry short cake for dessert with fresh ripe strawberries from the garden!

Going to the Swimming Pool

On a hot summer day there's nothing I like better than going to the pool. Besides cooling off in the water, there are lots of things to do. I can swim laps or have races with my friends. I can do a cannonball when I jump in. I like to jump in with a big splash when my friends are not looking so I get them all wet. Sometimes I pretend I'm a giant whale, and sometimes we play games like water tag.

There are water slides at the pool, too. One slide is very tall and crooked. It tosses you out in the water when you get to the bottom. The other slide is wide and you can go down it with your friends.

I like the wave pool the best. My friends and I watch for the big waves to come our way. We body surf on top of the wave and let it move us across the pool. Sometimes my friend and I get on a raft and wait for the wave to push us. Sometimes we just float along when the waves come.

You can have a great time if you just remember the rules: no running and no pushing anyone into the water. Mom has her own rule. She says we should always remember to wear our sunscreen to protect our skin.

I'm Adopted

My mother and father wanted me so much they adopted me. They said there were already too many children without homes. They wanted to make a family with a child who needed a home so they started looking for a baby girl to adopt.

They said they didn't care what she looked like or what country she came from. All they cared about was that she was healthy and that she needed a family to love her. They searched for just the right little girl who needed a home. Finally, they found her.

It just so happened that I was that little girl. My mother and father found me when I was three months old. They said when they saw me it was love at first sight. They could tell I loved them, too, so they took me home and made me their little girl. I don't remember it ever being any different.

Last year we decided it would be nice to add a little brother to our family. We looked and looked for a little boy who needed a family. It took a long time for everything to be arranged, but now I have a little brother. He isn't big enough to play with yet, but he likes to be held and walked. I think he likes me already. We are a pretty special family.

Going to a Play

I went to the play “The Princess and the Pea” with my friends. The play was performed at the King Theater. Our seats were in the front row. When the play was about to begin, the lights were turned down low. When the curtain opened and the stage lights came on, we could see a castle in the clouds on the stage. Then people walked out on the stage.

Sitting in the front row was fun. We could see everything that was happening on the stage. All the actors were so close to us we could see the makeup on their faces. Even the men and boys wore makeup. We could watch some of the people behind the curtain as they moved the lights or prepared to go on stage.

At the end of the first act, about halfway through the play, the actors took a break. The lights came on and we got up from our seats. We walked out to the lobby to have punch and cookies. When the lights were turned down again we hurried back to our seats. When the curtain opened for the second act, we saw the woods and gardens around the castle.

Everyone clapped when the play was over. The actors came out on stage and bowed. I took my program up to the stage so the actors could sign it. They asked if we liked the play. We said we liked it very much.

Going to the Movies at Home

I love going to the movies. My favorite place to go to a movie is not at the theater, though. My family doesn't like to go to the theater. Mom says we have to plan ahead so we don't miss the first part of the movie. Dad says we have to hunt for a parking place. My big brother says if we are late we have to take the worst seats. My sister says it's too noisy.

The favorite place for my family to see movies is at home. We don't have to find a parking place. We have the best seats in the house, our big soft couch. We can even lie on the floor on pillows if we want to. We don't even have to wear shoes.

We can watch a movie anytime we want. Even our dog, Boots, can watch the movies with us. Sometimes I can invite my friend or my cousin over. The popcorn is free at home and we can have all the seconds we want.

Sometimes Mom and Dad let me pick out the movie with their help. We go to the video store and rent it for the night or the weekend. On special nights Mom and Dad let me rent two movies. Dad makes the popcorn and we all get comfortable in the family room. I love going to the movies.

I Want to Be a Police Officer

I decided I wanted to be a police officer the day two officers came to our school. They brought a police dog that is a member of their team. They told us all about their jobs and how the police dog works with them. They said the police spend more time helping people than anything else. They go wherever there is a problem and they try to help.

The police dog is an important part of the team. A trained dog can find missing people after smelling their clothes. He can help find people who are lost in the woods and he can lead them out. The officer said that police dogs work hard but they like to play when they can.

We were allowed to play with the police dog when he was at our school. We played hide the ball. We tried to find the best place in the playground to hide the ball. The police dog tried to find the ball using only his nose. He gave us a big wag of his tail when he found it.

When a police dog is working, he is very serious and doesn't play around. He listens carefully to the commands he is given and he starts work right away. He doesn't care about playing because he knows he has a job to do. I want to be a police officer when I grow up so I can help people, too. Maybe I'll be able to work with a police dog someday.

If I Had a Cat

If I had a cat, I'd name her Princess. I'd treat her just like a princess. She would wear a gold ribbon with a big bow around her neck. She'd sleep on a red velvet pillow. She'd eat out of a fancy dish just like that white cat on TV.

My cat Princess would have green eyes. Her eyes would be narrow slits most of the time. Her eyes would be as wide as marbles whenever she looked at me. She would like me the very best of all the people in the world.

I can't have a cat because I have allergies. When I touch a cat my nose starts itching. If I touch my face after touching a cat, my eyes swell up. Sometimes I have trouble breathing. My mom has to give me medicine when that happens. If I'm at school when I have trouble breathing I have to go to the office and see the nurse.

Our neighbor has a cat named Gray Kitty. Gray Kitty likes me. He always comes up and rubs my legs. Even if I don't touch him I might start itching. I feel bad that I have to run away from Gray Kitty, because he likes me.

One day our neighbor surprised me. She gave me a cat of my own! Not a real live cat, but a stuffed one. She has silky fur and big green eyes and a gold ribbon with a big bow around her neck. I named her Princess and I can hold her all I want.

Riding the Elevator

Today I got to go as high as a tall, tall mountain, but I wasn't outside and I didn't climb a trail to get there. I was inside all the time because I was riding in an elevator that went up almost a mile high. I went with my mother to visit her friend. Her friend works in a building that is 44 stories tall.

We took a taxi downtown to the building. We went inside and looked for the elevator. When we got on, there were four other people already on it. Everyone pushed a button for the floor they wanted. My mother pressed the button for the 44th floor.

The elevator started going up. The other people all got off by the tenth floor and we were the only ones left. The elevator moved so fast I had to hold on to the bar. My mom held my hand and smiled at me.

"Isn't this exciting?" she asked. I nodded but my tummy felt funny. It felt like I needed to eat lunch. My ears felt funny also. My mom said it was because we had gone up so high that the air pressure was different. Finally the elevator slowed and stopped.

"We're here," said mom. While we were up so high we visited the observation deck. There was quite a view. It felt like we could see all the way to the next state. My mom's friend says when there is a storm it is really exciting to watch.

My Friend Is From Korea

It all started last year. Our class decided to find a pen pal from another country. I chose a girl my age from Korea. I wrote to her and she wrote back! We found out we like a lot of the same things. We both like our family. I told her all about my little brother and how he makes me laugh. She told me about her big sister who takes her on the bus to the movies.

We sent each other our picture and described where we live. As we wrote more and more letters I learned about her and she learned about me. We both like to eat, and dessert is our favorite part. The food we eat is very different, though. Even the desserts are different. Her favorite is Korean pear. My favorite is strawberry ice cream.

My parents took me to the Asian Festival so I could sample different Korean foods. I liked most of them. I liked the soups with noodles in them the best. My friend said she tried some American foods. She liked pizza but didn't like hot dogs.

We like to spend time learning about each other. My friend is teaching me to count and to write my name. I am teaching her the days of the week. I was surprised that her favorite song was the same as my favorite song. I hope we are able to meet in person someday.