



# Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills 8<sup>th</sup> Edition

Australasian Version

Progress Monitoring

Oral Reading Fluency

Grade 1

Student Materials

## **A Clean House**

I like to help my family clean. My first job is to clean the bathroom. I empty the rubbish and then I scrub everything until it is clean. Then I sweep and mop the bathroom floor. When I'm done cleaning the bathroom, I sweep and mop the kitchen floor. I tell everybody not to walk on the floors until they are all dry.

Next, I clean my room. I am so glad I don't have to mop the floor in my room. It has carpet. My mum says my room is messy and she does not like that. I try to keep it clean, but I have a lot of toys and clothes. I put some of my toys in the toy box and the rest I put under my bed.

The clothes on the floor are dirty so I put them in the basket. I can see my floor! Then I fold the clothes on my bed and put them away. I make my bed, so it looks nice. My room is like new. The last thing I do is look at how clean my house is. I am happy that I helped my family clean.

## **Brush Your Teeth**

Teeth are important! You need to keep them clean. The best way to keep them clean is to brush them. To brush your teeth, you will need a toothbrush, toothpaste, and a sink.

First, get ready to brush your teeth. Make sure you are done eating for a while. A good time to brush your teeth is before bedtime. Another good time to brush your teeth is after a meal.

Second, get your supplies. You will need your toothbrush, toothpaste, and sink. Some people also use dental floss and mouthwash after they brush their teeth.

Third, use the tap to get the bristles of your toothbrush wet. Fourth, open the toothpaste. Squeeze a small amount of toothpaste onto the bristles. The amount should be the size of a coin.

Fifth, brush your teeth! Make sure to brush your upper teeth. Brush your lower teeth. Make sure to brush in the back of your mouth. Brush in the front of your mouth. Make sure to brush the outside of your teeth. Brush the inside of your teeth. Use a circular motion. It should take a minute or two to brush your

teeth well. Some people use a timer to make sure they brush long enough.

Sixth, rinse off your toothbrush in the sink. Put away your toothpaste. Now, smile!

## Hats

Once upon a time, people wore hats all the time. We wear hats now. But in the past, they wore hats a lot more. You were not dressed without a hat. Do you wear a hat each day?

Hats are handy. Sun hats give you shade from the sun. People wear hats to keep off both the sun and the rain. Some hats have a string to wear under your chin. The string helps keep a hat on in strong wind. Some hats have flaps for your ears. The flaps keep ears warm in the cold.

Hats are made from all sorts of things. Some hats are made of straw, wool, felt, or cotton. Other hats are made of fur or leather or plastic.

A long time ago some places had laws that said people had to wear hats! In one place, you had to wear a hat on Sundays and holidays.

They also have laws about hats now. They tell when you can wear hats or not. In one state, you may not wear a hat while dancing. In another, you may not block a person's view with your hat. Are there laws about hats where you live?

## **Glass Frogs**

A glass frog is a real frog. It is a type of tree frog. The skin on its back is green, but the skin on its belly is clear, like glass. You can see what is under its skin. So, you can see what is inside its body!

Glass frogs are hard to see. They are very small. Some are no bigger than a nut. The green skin on their backs helps them blend in with plants. They also only move at night. That makes them hard to learn about.

To see one, you need to go around at night with a light. You listen for their calls. The males peep and tweet. They are calling to the females.

The sounds also warn other males to keep away. If two males get too close, they will fight. They will kick and punch each other.

Glass frogs like to cling to leaves on branches above streams. They lay their eggs there. After a few weeks the eggs change into tadpoles. The tadpoles soon fall into the water below.

We do not know what happens after that. No one knows how the tadpoles grow up. More studies of

glass frogs need to be done before we can know more.

## **On the Bridge**

One day my mum took me to the city. We had to cross the big bridge to get there. I love the bridge. You can hear the water rushing in the river below it. No matter how hot a day is, the bridge has a cool breeze.

On this day, we saw three boys leaning on the rail. They were taking turns spitting into the river. One boy wore a baseball cap. He kept his hand on the cap like it might fall into the river.

My mother warned them not to lean too far. They all turned and looked at her. They looked down like they were in trouble. I waved at them, but they didn't wave back.

After we passed, I looked back. They were spitting again and leaning out just as far. I asked my mother why she didn't yell at the boys for spitting. I was never allowed to spit.

She told me she wasn't their mother. Then why did she care how far they leaned, I wondered.



## Ants

Ants are cool. There are many kinds of ants. They come in many sizes and do lots of cool things.

Fire ants sting. They can be red, but not all of them are. When water floods their ant hill, they cling to each other. Then they look like a raft on top of the water.

One cool kind of ant is a leaf cutter ant. They climb trees and tear off the leaves. They march the leaf bits back to their ant hills. They use them to grow stuff they like to eat.

Weaver ants also use leaves. But they use them to build their nests. These ants make a silk that acts like glue. It makes leaves stick to their nest.

Trap jaw ants have big jaws. But they don't use their jaws to bite. They use them to push away from things that scare them. The snap of their jaws sends them many metres into the air. Their jaws snap at over one hundred kilometres an hour!

There is even an ant called the yellow crazy ant. I would tell you what they do, but you would not believe me. It is too crazy!

## **The Yellow House**

There used to be a house right next to my house. It was big and yellow. There was a big hole in the roof. Nobody had lived there for a long time.

My mother said the house was not safe. Parts of it had burned in a fire many years ago. She told me never to go inside. She said it was not safe, even just to play near it.

One day three big trucks came. Two were dump trucks. The other was a flat truck. On the back of the flat truck was a bulldozer. My mother said the men in the trucks were going to knock down the house. I wanted to watch the men work, but I had to go to school.

Later, when I got home, the trucks were gone. All the men were gone, and the house was no longer there. All the wood, all the bricks. Everything had been taken away.

They even filled the hole that had been the basement. I stood in my yard and stared for a long time. I couldn't stop looking at the house that wasn't there.

## **The Bus Ride**

Today was my first day taking the bus to school. My mum put curls in my hair because I like my hair when it is curly. I felt happy walking to the bus stop.

When I got to the bus stop there were a lot of big kids standing on the corner. I was scared to get on the bus because there were so many older kids. Everyone was talking. I didn't know anyone. No one looked at me and no one talked to me. I got on the bus and I sat down fast. The bus was loud. It felt like we were driving for a long time.

I walked to my bus after school. I was the last one to get on the bus. There were only two seats left in the front. I had to sit next to an older kid. I didn't look up. When the bus took off the girl sitting next to me smiled and said she liked my hair. She said she wished her hair was long and curly like mine. We started talking about everything and the bus ride seemed short this time.

## **We Need Sleep**

We all need to sleep. Sleep gives us things we need to be happy and healthy. Sleep gives our bodies and brains the rest they need. We need sleep so we can grow and heal. We also need sleep to help us learn. When we get the rest we need, it even helps keep colds away.

It is bad not to get enough sleep. It is hard to learn when we don't get the sleep we need. We forget things and are sleepy all day. Without sleep, our bodies would not be rested. When we aren't rested, we get grumpy. When we are grumpy, we can be mean to our family and friends. Without sleep, life can be hard.

There are ways to help us get enough sleep. One good trick is to go to bed at the same time every night. It helps to take a bath or read before bed. These things can make us sleepy. We should not eat a lot of food before bed, but a small snack is okay. Keeping our bedroom dark and quiet at night helps, too. The best sleep habits are the ones that make it easy to fall and stay asleep.

## **Breakfast in Bed**

Sam's mother had the flu. He wanted to make her breakfast in bed. He planned to make eggs, but he couldn't use the stove. So, he cracked two eggs into a bowl and beat them with a fork. Then, he put the bowl in the microwave.

"How long should I cook these?" he said. Sam did not like eggs himself. He wanted to ask his mother, but that would spoil the surprise. She would know the eggs were for her. This was a problem.

He tried to think about how long it took her to make eggs. He thought ten minutes sounded right, so he pressed the number ten on the microwave, then "cook." He went into the family room to watch cartoons.

The microwave beeped. The bowl was very hot, so he used an oven mitt to get it out. Then he looked at the eggs. They had swelled to the top of the bowl. They looked like a solid layer of yellow - not like his mother's eggs at all. But they smelled right, so he thought they were fine.

His mother was thrilled. "Oh, honey! How nice." She went to take a bite. The entire egg thing

came out of the bowl and hung off the fork. Sam had made a giant egg blob, shaped like the bowl in which it was made.

## **The Fishing Trip**

My big brother Dan fishes all the time. He never takes me, but last week he did. I had never fished before that.

I was so happy I could not sleep the night before. I tossed and turned in my bed. I knew I had to go to sleep. We were getting up at dawn. I must have gone to sleep. Before I knew it, it was time to wake up.

We took our rods and gear and went to the boat. When we got to the dock, we put our stuff on the boat. Dan started the boat and drove it for a long time. The sky went from dark to light as the sun came up.

When we got to a good spot, Dan stopped the boat. He showed me how to put bait on the hook and how to hold the rod. It seemed easy.

I cast my rod and in a few minutes I got a fish! It was a big one, too. It was so big that my brother had to help me bring it in.

I got more fish than my brother did that day. Dan told me I was a pro! I hope I can fish again soon.

## Owls

Owls are not easy to see. Why? Because they hunt mostly at night. So your best bet to see an owl is in a zoo!

Owls are hard to hear, too. Why? Because they can take off and land without making a sound. Your best bet to hear an owl is if it calls out to another owl.

When owls call to each other, their calls can sound funny. Some owls sound like they are saying “who.” Others screech. A screech sounds like a short scream. Still other owls make piping sounds that sound like a flute.

Owls live in many places. They live in forests. They live on mountains. They live in deserts, and they live in snow and ice. Some even live under the ground.

Owls come in all colours and sizes. The smallest is only ten to twelve centimetres tall. The biggest is almost one metre tall. Most owls are brown or grey. But snowy owls and fishing owls are mostly white. Owls can even be soft shades of red and yellow.

Owls are super hunters. They can hunt small animals, bugs, birds, and fish. They fly making no



sound and snatch up their prey with sharp claws.  
They have big eyes and very good ears. That makes it  
easy for owls to spot their prey at night.

## **Bears**

Bears are large hairy animals that eat meat and plants. They are smart and strong. Bears can be brown, black or white.

There is not much food in the winter, so some bears sleep a lot. They don't wake up until spring. They don't go to the toilet or get up to eat when they are asleep. A mother bear will wake up to have her baby bears if it is time. Baby bears are called cubs.

When bears wake up they are very hungry. They need to look for food. Bears can smell food even when it is far away. Some of the things they like to eat are nuts, bugs, baby deer and fish. Some bears will dig in the rubbish to find food.

If a mother bear has cubs she shows them how to find food. They play fight with each other so they learn how to fight. If cubs learn to fight, it will help them stay safe from other animals. When they are about two years old their mother sends them off on their own.

## **A Walk with Mum**

I was walking with my mother one day. I did not know why at first, but she stopped walking. She sat down on the grass near a tree.

She patted the grass next to her. So, I sat down, too. “Look at that,” she said, pointing up.

I looked and saw a bird sitting on a tree branch just above us. The bird was looking at us. It had its head to the side, like my dog likes to do. I saw its eyes looking right at us. Then it filled its throat with air and sang a loud song.

It was like the bird was singing just for us. The song was clear and fine.

My mother said, “Ah!” She shut her eyes. So, I shut my eyes to listen, too. It seemed like it would never stop.

But then it did, and the bird flew away. I felt a little sad to see it go. My throat felt tight, and my tummy felt funny.

My mother sat silent for a long time. Then she said, “When the first bird in the world sang the first song, I think it must have sounded like that!”

## **Cats and Dogs**

Cats and dogs make great pets. But both cats and dogs need lots of your help. You need to take care of them so they are happy pets. It doesn't take much work to take care of your pets. But you do need to help them every day.

Both cats and dogs need food and water. You need to make sure to buy or make the right food for your pets. You should not give pets people food. You need to give your pets food and clean water every day. Many pets will need to be fed two times a day.

Cats and dogs also need help with their messes. Many cats use litter boxes for their messes. But the litter box will need to be cleaned every day. Dogs can go outside for their messes. But you will need to clean up their messes, too.

Exercise is also important for cats and dogs. Sometimes cats like to play for exercise. One way to play with a cat is to dangle a string in front of it. The cat will try to catch it. Dogs like to run. You can play fetch with dogs.

Finally, you need to show your pets lots of love. You can show love to your cat or dog by patting

it. You can also show them love by hugging them.  
You can also cuddle with them. That's when they  
show you love, too!

## **My Bike**

I like riding my bike. My bike is green, and it has a bell. I like riding with my friend. Her name is Jen. She has a pink bike with a white basket on the front. We ride our bikes when it is nice outside. We always wear our helmets and we don't need any training wheels.

My mum and Jen's mum sit outside and watch us ride our bikes. They call us over for a cup of ice cold water. We stop to drink. The water cools us down and we are ready to ride again. We wave to them as we ride away.

I like to ride fast, but my mum tells me to slow down. She thinks I will fall and get hurt. I listen to her. I don't want to fall, and I don't want to mess up my bike. Maybe I can ride fast when I get bigger. I will need a bigger bike then. I don't think I will ever stop riding a bike.

## **The Book Club**

I am a tree house and I live in an oak tree. My name is Cassy.

I am made of wood and so is my tree. His name is Ben. We have a lot in common, since we are both made of wood. We spend a lot of time together. We are best friends.

Every week the girls in the house climb Ben. They sit on my lap and talk about books they read during the week. The books are made from wood, too. So, we all have a lot in common.

Sometimes we tease the lawn, Gabe, about how short he is. Gabe wishes he could be tall enough to see inside my windows. He wants to join the book club, too.

“The man in the house is feeding me,” Gabe told us. “Soon I’ll be tall enough to join the club.”

“Gabe,” I said. “Don’t be silly. People don’t like grass to be as high as a tree.”

We teased Gabe, but Ben and I felt sorry for him. We knew he’d always be too short.

At our next club meeting, I asked the girls, “Can we sometimes meet at the bottom of the tree, so Gabe can join our club?”

Because they are nice, they said, “yes”.

And that is the story of how Gabe joined the book club.



## **Hippos**

Have you ever seen a hippo? They are big and grey. A hippo can be as big as a truck. Here you can only see them in zoos. But in other places you can see them in the wild, too.

Hippos are from Africa. They live near water. Hippos stay in the water all day long. They like the shady parts of rivers.

Hippos like to walk in rivers and lakes, but they do not swim. The water keeps their huge bodies cool. They keep their heads above water most of the time. After dark they come out to graze on wild grass.

Zoos can have hippos, and some people have them as pets! When one gets loose, it can do well if it has food and water.

Four hippos got loose in one country. Now there are almost one hundred there. They have food and water and no one hunts them, so they do well. They have changed the land and water. They make the water dirty. But the people love them all the same.

Hippos are cute, but they are deadly, too. They are the animal that kills the most people in Africa. They do not like people to get too close. If you see a

hippo's head in the water, find somewhere else to swim!

## **The Video Game Fight**

Today I went to Dan's house to play after school. Dan is my best friend and we always play together. Most of the time we play video games.

Dan wins most of the time but today I won. After I won, Dan got mad and stopped playing with me. I told him it was just a game. He started to cry.

I wanted to keep playing, but Dan told me to go home. I left and ran all the way home. I played my own video game, but playing by myself was not fun. I missed my friend.

Then there was a knock at the door. It was Dan. He said he wanted to play video games again. Dan said he was sorry for being so mean and telling me to go home. He wanted us to be friends again.

I was happy that he wanted to play with me again. We played my favourite video game and I won.

After I won Dan said, "Way to go! Maybe next time I will beat you."

We laughed and gave each other a high-five. We had time to play one last game.

## **Not All Birds Can Fly**

It sounds odd, but not all birds can fly. Lots of birds do not fly. You may know two of them. They are penguins and ostriches.

Most birds have light bones, but penguins do not have light bones. Light bones are the best for flying. Penguin bones are better for swimming.

Their bones make it easy for them to dive under water. They use their wings to help them swim, too. They can swim as fast as thirty kilometres an hour. That is faster than you ride your bike!

Ostriches are the big birds. They are very heavy birds. They do not fly, but they run very fast. Their legs are long and strong.

Some people think they are so good at running, they do not need to fly. Their wings help them not to fall down when they run fast. Ostriches can run faster than sixty kilometres per hour. That is as fast as a car!

Penguins and ostriches may not fly, but they still move fast!