



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

Australasian Version

Progress Monitoring

Oral Reading Fluency

Grade 2

Student Materials

## **Nan and Pa**

I like to spend time with my nan and my pa. They come over to my house to visit us and sometimes I go spend the weekend with them. When school is finished I spend the summer at their house. They do not live near us.

I have so much fun when I visit them. My pa takes me fishing and I love to go fishing. When we get home, my nan cooks the fish and we eat it for dinner. We go to the fair every summer when it comes to town and my pa rides all the rides with me. Some days we go to the park or take walks.

At night, we sit in the backyard and look at the stars in the sky. My pa likes to tell stories and sometimes we stay up late just talking. I really like going to their house. I wished they lived around the corner from us.

## Old Peach Tree

The peach tree in Bob's garden was very old. But it was still alive and every spring it grew new leaves and flowers. It had not grown peaches in many, many years, so Bob's dad had decided to chop down the tree for firewood.

While his dad chopped with an axe, Bob remembered eating the tree's peaches when he was little. He remembered the sweet juice spilling over his lips as he chewed. They were the best peaches he had ever tasted in his life.

Suddenly, a possum came out of a hole in the top of the tree. The possum chattered at Bob's dad. Bob was sure the possum was telling him to stop. But Bob's dad kept chopping.

Soon a magpie hopped out of its nest onto a branch. The magpie squawked and squawked and did not fly away. Bob was sure the magpie must have eggs in its nest. He wondered if they might be ready to hatch. But Bob's dad just chopped and chopped.

Then Bob saw bees hovering above his head. He looked up and saw a beehive in another part of the tree. Bob could tell their buzzing was angry. But Bob's dad didn't hear a thing over all his chopping.

Bob waved his arms at his dad. Bob shouted, "Dad! I have to tell you something. It's important!"

## **The Plane**

The first plane was made by two brothers. Their plane was the first to have an engine. It was also the first one to be flown for more than a few seconds. Before then, people flying had only been a dream. The brothers became famous and rich as a result.

We now know that planes can fly because of the shape and length of their wings. The body of a plane also needs to be long and thin. This way the air moves around the plane and under its wings helping it to fly. Engines make aeroplanes move faster. The stronger the engine, the longer and further the plane can fly.

Today, planes are very common. They move people and things faster than a car, train, or boat can. Some planes take people to places far away. Some planes carry boxes full of all kinds of things. There are also planes that are used in times of war. They fly fast and carry guns. When we are not at war, they fly in displays that show off how well the pilots fly.

## Firefighters

Firefighters have a hard job to do. Most people run away from a fire. Firefighters run to the fire. Firefighters like helping people but they can get hurt when they do this job. They wear lots of stuff to stay safe. They wear a helmet, mask, gloves, coat, pants, air pack and boots.

Some firefighters sleep at the fire station. They keep their clothes and things they need for the fire next to the truck. When they get a call for a fire they run to the truck, get dressed, jump in the truck and speed off. They drive fast so they can get to the fire.

Firefighters use a water hose to put out the fire. Sometimes they need to use the ladder on the fire truck. They use their axe if they can't open a door. They look to see if anyone is inside or hurt. They save people from fires.

## **Nuts about Ice Cream**

I like to eat a lot of lollies, but I think I would rather eat cake and biscuits. My favourite thing to do in the whole world is to eat ice cream.

Any flavour of ice cream is okay with me. I am not fussy about ice cream. I would eat a big bowl every day if my mother would let me.

I love how it chills my tongue and cools my throat in the summer. I also like to eat ice cream when it is freezing cold outside. When the sun is really hot, I think about ice cream. When the snow falls, I also think about ice cream.

I like hot fudge and whipped cream on top. But I don't like nuts. One time in a restaurant a waitress put walnuts on my ice cream, and I ate it anyway. It tasted just okay.

When I grow up I would like to own an ice cream shop. I bet I would be my best customer. But I'd also have to brush my teeth a lot.

## **Farm Jobs**

My name is Sam, and I live on a farm near Woodside with my mum and dad. Every morning before I ride the bus to school I have jobs to do. When I come home I have more jobs to do before dinner.

We have ten chickens, eight cows, a couple of goats, and two black horses. It's my job to feed the chickens in the morning. I also check for eggs. In the evening, I feed the cows and goats and horses. My favourite job is brushing the horses. Both horses have beautiful black coats. I brush them until their coats are shiny and smooth.

The younger horse is called Midnight. I watched when he was born. I named him Midnight because he is all black. Midnight is two years old, still a colt, so I can't ride him yet. On weekends, I take him for walks by leading him with a rope. Dad says I will be able to ride Midnight in a few more years.

Meanwhile, I can ride Midnight's mother. She's a mare named Nightmare. Her coat is shiny black just like Midnight's is. But she also has a strange white mark on her forehead. Nightmare is ten years old. On weekends and some afternoons, I can ride her around the paddocks. Mum says it's good exercise for Nightmare and for me.

## **An Island of Mangroves**

Dan rode in the backseat of the taxi. Each time the taxi went over a bump, his head hit the roof. Dan laughed each time this happened.

The taxi driver rolled down all the windows. Hot air flowed in. It was dusty and smelled of the sea. But there was also another smell he couldn't place. Dan asked what the weird smell was.

"Mangroves and mud," said the taxi driver.

The driver explained that mangroves were small trees with many roots above the ground. The roots held dirt, sand, and mud. They were what helped keep the tiny island above the ocean waves.

Dan looked out the window, his mouth wide open. He was amazed by all he saw. He saw that the houses were painted bright colours: pink, blue, or yellow. At home, houses were dull colours. The sunlight seemed even brighter reflected off those colourful houses.

He saw a donkey was clomping down the street with big bags on its back. A boy led it by a rope. The footpaths were crowded with people. Cars honked at every crossing. Then they passed a woman holding a basket of fruit on her head. Dan asked what was in the basket.

"Mangoes," said the driver.

"Mangroves?" asked Dan.



“No, mangoes!” said the driver. Then they both laughed at Dan’s mistake.

## Ice Cream Cones

Most people like to eat ice cream. When you eat ice cream, you have to make decisions. What flavour? How many scoops? Do you want to eat it out of a cup, on a stick, or from a cone? Many think cones are the best because there's nothing to clean or throw away when you're done.

Ice cream has been around for at least five hundred years. But ice cream cones have only been around for less than two hundred years. There are a few types of ice cream cones. There are cake cones, sugar cones, and waffle cones.

The first type of cone ever made was a waffle cone. People would make waffles and roll them into a cone shape. Waffle cones are larger than other cones and have a wavy edge. They can sometimes get a little soggy before you finish eating.

Sugar cones look like waffle cones, but they are smaller. They also have straight, solid edges. They keep their crunch down to the last bite.

Cake cones are different. Cake cones are made with a baking mould. A baking mould is a baking pan that has a specific shape. Some people think cake cones don't taste like anything. And they can get very soggy before you're done.

Which type of cone is best? It all depends on who is eating it!

## **The Lost Cat**

Georgia spotted the sign on a telephone post. “Lost Cat: Reward Offered,” it said. The poster said the cat was an orange and tan tabby named Bodie.

Georgia asked her father how to find a lost cat. “Do you have any advice?”

Her father thought about it a moment. He said, “Let’s go to the shop.”

They got in the truck and drove to the supermarket. They bought a can of cat food, the fancy kind with a photo of an elegant white Persian cat.

“This should do the trick,” her father said.

When they opened the can, the cat food stunk like old fish. “Just walk around the neighbourhood with this. He’ll come out. This food is irresistible to cats.”

Georgia did as he said. She walked to the end of the block and around the corner, holding the open can in front of her. With her other hand, she plugged her nose shut. Happily, she found Bodie right away, hiding under a bush by the library.

A little later, she arrived home. Her dad was in the garage, working on his car. “Dad, I found Bodie!” she announced. “And some others, too.”

Her father looked up. Behind Georgia were four cats,  
two white, one black, and a tabby.

“Should we get more cat food?” she asked.

## **Clean Your Room**

Homes get dirty. It's a part of life. We bring dirt and dust into the home. No matter how much you try to avoid it, your home will get dirty. So, you have to clean it. This may be true for your bedroom, too. Here are some ways to help you clean your room and your home!

One way to clean your home is to keep the dirt out. Try to prevent dirt from coming in. Take off your shoes before you enter. Clean your shoes, too!

One way to keep your room clean is to tidy up every day. Make it a habit to clean every day. Make sure to clean any spills or big messes right away.

Another way to keep your home and room clean is to put everything in its place. Make sure that everything has a place. When you are done using something, put it away. When you are done playing with a toy, put it away.

Have a place for dirty clothes. Many people have a basket. A basket is like a bucket for dirty clothes. Instead of putting dirty clothes on the floor, put them in a basket.

Once your room or house is tidy, use a feather duster. Use the feather duster to remove dust from furniture. You can use your duster on window sills and blinds, too!

Finally, vacuum or sweep the floor. Now your room and home are clean!

## **Saving Money**

People have a lot of ways they try to save money. They put money away so that they don't spend it. Then they can use it later.

One way to save money is to put it in a bank. Banks keep people's money safe. Banks also can loan money to people who need it. Banks charge money to keep your money safe. You will need your parents help to put your money in the bank.

Another way to save is to have your own money box. People call them piggy banks. Piggy banks are good for holding coins. Some piggy banks are even shaped like little pigs! Piggy banks may or may not have a lock on them.

Another way to save money is to use a safe. Safes are strong, heavy boxes with a lock. Because they are heavy, they are hard to steal. A lock helps keep your money safe from thieves.

You can also use a secret spot to hide your money. Make sure it is somewhere that only you know. But don't forget where you hide your money! If you forget, your money won't be any use to you.

The best part about saving money is that if you keep putting money away, you have more to spend later. Then you can use it in any way you like.

## Ten Legs

Mary the spider wanted ten legs. She needed eight legs to walk and spin webs. With two more legs she could do more. She did the maths. Two legs extra was twenty-five percent more leg! More legs meant more possibilities.

She could learn to play piano. (Because spiders have tiny grass pianos.) She could do pottery. She could weave a blanket. She could create fancier dance routines. Two bonus legs! Think of the moves she could do!

Mary told everyone how much better she would be. She would be the most skilful spider in the colony. She even gave a speech at school: “Why I Want Two More Legs.”

Her teacher gave her a low score. After class, Mary asked why.

“Mary,” the teacher said. “I don’t reward children for thinking they are better than other children, not even in their imaginations.” Mary pouted. “Also, you’re perfect the way you are. Eight is the best number. It has two more letters than ten. Isn’t that better?”

Mary smiled. She agreed.

## **Dad's Helper**

My dad lets me be his assistant when he fixes things around the house. He uses so many tools. He shows me how to use them and then lets me do it. He makes sure that I don't hurt myself.

Today we fixed a shelf in our kitchen. My mum needed the shelf to put her spices on. We had to use a measuring tape, screws and a screw driver. My dad said that if we used a power drill it would be faster. He held my hands on the drill. Together we drilled the screws in place to hold the shelf. It didn't take that long to do. My mum was so excited when we were done.

My dad and I went to the shop to get wood after we were finished with the shelf in the kitchen. As soon as we returned, we began working on a toy box for me. He said that when we were done making the toy box we could work on a much bigger project. He said that I was one of the best workers he ever had because I did such a fantastic job. I hope I do just as great on this next project.



## **The Lion's Pride**

Most lions live in Africa. Lions live in a family called a pride. A pride can have three lions or up to forty lions. There are about two male lions in every pride.

The female lions do most of the hunting and they take care of the baby lions. A baby lion is called a cub. Some of the females take turns taking care of all the cubs. The female lions do their hunting at night. Sometimes two or three of them work together to hunt other animals. The male lions eat first and then the female lions eat. The cubs get to eat whatever is left over.

Lions run very fast, but not for a long time. They can run up to eighty kilometres an hour. They rest about twenty hours a day. The male lion has a loud roar that you can hear from eight kilometres away. He does this so other animals don't come near the pride. He also does this so that all the pride family will come together.

## Keeping Track

Boys and girls of all ages like to collect things. They collect toy cars, sea shells, and even bugs! Sometimes a collection is so large it is hard to keep track. Many people like to keep track of their toys, shells, and bugs. There are many ways to keep track of your things.

One way to keep track of your things is with a journal. First, you need some paper and a pencil. On the paper, you write down what each item is. If you have two of the same thing, you would write a two next to it. This is a great way to list lots of different things.

Another way to keep track is with a graph. A graph is like a journal, but instead of making a list, you make a picture. The picture can include lines, drawings, or both. If you have seven flat sea shells and five round shells you could group them together in a picture.

You could also make a bar graph. This graph tells you how many of each item there is. For your shells, you draw a line with numbers from zero to ten. Then, draw a thick line from zero to seven. Next, write “flat shells” next to it. The line shows you that you have seven flat shells. Now draw another thick line from zero to five. Write the words “round shells” next to that line. The line would show that you have five round shells. Finally, you can keep track of your things!

## **Jungle and Forest**

The earth has many different types of areas. These areas are called habitats. There are lakes and swamps. There are deserts and reefs. Jungles and forests are two more. They are alike. And they are different.

Jungles and forests are the same in a few ways. Both jungles and forests are large. They both have life. Both jungles and forest have many trees. The trees are dense, which means that the trees grow close to each other. The trees in jungles and forests are shelter for animals. The trees also are a source of food. Both jungles and forests have many types of animals.

Jungles and forests are also different. Jungles tend to be warm and wet. Forests tend to be cool. The types of trees in each are different, too. Forest trees are often pine trees and trees that lose their leaves in winter. Jungles don't have many pine trees, and the trees don't tend to lose their leaves. The types of animals in each are also different. Jungles are more likely to have big cats like tigers. Forests are more likely to have big dogs like wolves.

These are just a few of the ways jungles and forests are the same and different!

## **My Aunt**

I went to the movies today with my aunt. We had such a terrific time.

My aunt always spends time with me. She takes me to a lot of places. Sometimes she asks me where I want to go and sometimes she surprises me.

I have lots of fun with my aunt. She is so nice to me. She doesn't have any kids of her own and that's why she takes me almost everywhere she goes. When we go out she buys me toys and snacks, and it doesn't even have to be my birthday. On my birthday, she buys me a lot of stuff and sometimes my mum and dad tell her it is too much. I don't think it is too much. I love it.

She is the best aunt and I love her very much. Even when she doesn't feel well she makes time for me. I feel bad when she is sick, but she always tells me that nothing will keep her from spending time with me.

My aunt works a lot, but still makes time for me and that makes me feel great. I have so much fun when I am with my aunt and I always look forward to seeing her.

## Pigs

When pigs are born they are called piglets. Piglets are about one and a half kilograms when they are born. Their mother feeds them milk for three to five weeks. She also sings to the piglets when she is feeding them. The piglets gain a lot of weight just after one week.

Pigs like to sleep close together. They do not go to the toilet where they sleep or eat. Pigs are not dirty animals.

People think they are dirty animals because they roll in the mud. Pigs do not sweat so they like the mud to keep cool.

Pigs that live in the wild eat leaves, fruit and small rodents. Pigs that live on a farm eat mostly grains. Pigs cannot see that well, but they have a great sense of smell.

They are very smart animals. Pigs are smarter than dogs. They are even smarter than a three-year-old.

## **Washing Dishes**

When I was growing up, the only kind of dishwasher was a person. No one I knew had a dish washing machine. They cost too much money. Only rich people could buy them.

In my house, we washed dishes in a bucket of soapy water. First, we would let the dirty dishes soak in the bucket. That made the scrubbing easier. The water was so hot we had to wear rubber gloves. The gloves helped a lot but my hands still got very warm.

I would pick up a dish and scrub it with a pad made of steel wool.

First, I would scrub the front of the dish. Then I would scrub the back. After I made sure I hadn't missed any spots, I would rinse the dish under hot water. Then I would place it in the dish rack, which sat on a rubber mat beside the sink. Most of the water on the dishes would drain off. Then I would towel the dishes dry and put them away.

## **Snow Days**

My sister and I love when we have the day off from school because of the snow. We get so happy when we hear that it is going to snow.

We can't sleep when there is a snowstorm the night before school. When everyone else is sleeping, my sister and I look out the window and watch the snow fall from the sky. It looks so pretty. We cross our fingers that there will be no school so we can go outside and play in it.

We like to make snow angels, throw snowballs and make a snowman. We really like sledding. We wish for a lot of snow so we can go play on the hill with our friends.

When we come home we take our wet clothes off so they can dry. We sit by the fireplace so we can get warm and drink hot chocolate.

My sister and I have so much fun on snow days. We hope it snows a lot this school year. The best part is that we don't have homework when we have snow days!