

3rd grade reading tutor sheet: the five-minute check, the 30-minute session plan, and a progress log

The five-minute check (a new 150-word grade-3 passage)

1. The child reads aloud for exactly one minute; mark every wrong or skipped word, do not correct. 2. Count words read correctly (WCPM). 3. Accuracy = words correct ÷ words attempted. 4. Ask: what was it about; what happened first; one 'why' question.

Date and passage: _____

Words attempted: _____

Words correct per minute: _____

Accuracy (%): _____

Retell (what / first / why): _____

What the check means

What you saw	The problem	Start here
Many words wrong or guessed from the first letter; accuracy under 90%	Decoding (phonics)	Word work: the patterns the child misses
Words mostly right, but slow, word by word, flat voice	Fluency	Repeated reading
Reads smoothly, cannot explain several words	Vocabulary	Words in context, and being read to
Reads smoothly, knows the words, cannot say what happened or why	Comprehension	Stop-and-say after every paragraph

Benchmarks (Hasbrouck and Tindal 2017, 50th percentile, grade 3)

Fall	Winter	Spring	Accuracy guide
83 WCPM	97 WCPM	112 WCPM	95%+ alone; 90 to 94% with help; under 90% too hard

The 30-minute session, same order every time

Minutes	What	Why
5	Reread yesterday's text aloud	Fluency: speed and expression come from rereading
5	Word work: one pattern, ten words	Decoding
10	New text, read aloud together	The main reading of the day
5	Talk about it: what happened; how do you know (finger on the sentence)	Comprehension and vocabulary
5	Write two or three sentences	Writing fixes what was understood

Shift the minutes to fit the check: a decoding problem gets ten minutes of word work; a comprehension problem gets ten minutes of talk. Three or four sessions a week.

Word work: the patterns third graders most often miss

Pattern	Examples	Done
Vowel teams	ea (beach), oa (boat), ai (rain), ou (cloud)	[]
r-controlled vowels	ar (card), or (storm), er / ir / ur (her, bird, turn)	[]
Silent e	hop / hope, cub / cube, plan / plane	[]
Long words: find the vowels, split, read each part, blend	fan-tas-tic, re-mem-ber, in-ter-est-ing	[]
Words that do not sound out: just tell them	said, could, through, because	[]

Six mistakes to avoid

- [] Correcting every word instantly: wait three seconds, give the first sound, then tell them and move on.
- [] 'Sound it out' for every word: some words do not sound out.
- [] Comprehension questions for a child who cannot yet read the words.
- [] Sessions of an hour: stamina runs out at thirty minutes.
- [] Only silent reading: you cannot hear the mistakes.
- [] Taking away books they enjoy because they are too easy.

Progress log: a new grade-level passage every two weeks

Date	Passage	WCPM	Accuracy	Guessed words	Retell OK?

A typical third grader gains about one word per minute a week; focused practice four times a week often gains faster. No movement after six to eight weeks, random decoding errors or confusion of common small words: ask the school in writing for a reading evaluation.

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