



K–3: Preparing for Assessment

Introduction

This guide discusses the preparation process prior to administering the Developmental Reading Assessment® (DRA®2) in Grades K–3. There are a few different steps in the preparation process for the higher grades. For information on preparing to administer DRA2 in Grades 4–8, please watch the tutorial 4–8: Preparing for Assessment.

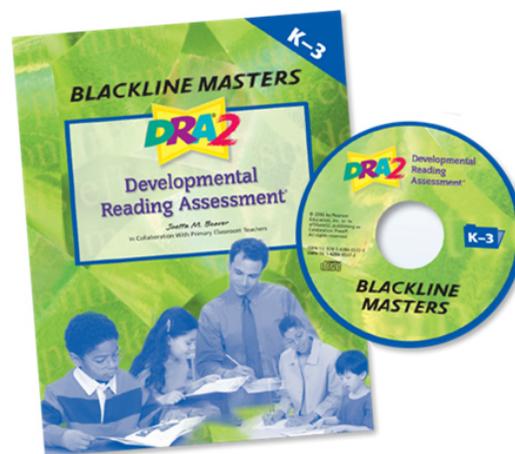
Before assessing the students, there is an eight-step process that should be completed. The steps are

- checking books and forms;
- making copies;
- assembling materials;
- reviewing the Record of Oral Reading;
- reading Benchmark Assessment Books;
- creating timelines and planning activities;
- prepping students; and
- choosing an appropriate testing location.

Step 1: Check Books and Forms

Before beginning the assessment, make sure that all the necessary books and forms are available, including the Teacher Guide and the Benchmark Assessment Books, Levels A–40.

The forms are found in the Blackline Masters book or CD. There are forms that are used with each text to assess individual students and those that are used to collect overall classroom data.



The Teacher Observation Guide has the Record of Oral Reading, the Continuum, and the Focus for Instruction forms needed to conduct the assessment. For each Benchmark Assessment Book in Levels 28–40, the appropriate Student Booklet and the Student Reading Survey are

**Step 6:
Create
Assessment
Timeline/
Plan Activities**

Typically, it will be easy to assess one or two students a day. It should take approximately two to three weeks to assess the entire class. If it is not possible to assess two students a day, plan for an extended period of time for the testing.

Select a time each day for the assessment conferences when other students are engaged in quiet activities that they can do on their own. It is important to specifically plan those activities. The activities might include reading independently or with a partner, working at a computer station, or writing in a journal.

DRA2 also provides the flexibility to assess the least proficient or most competent readers first, depending upon personal preference.

**Step 7:
Prepare
Students**

The next step is to create a nonthreatening environment for students by telling them what they will be asked to do during the conference. Make sure to let the other students in the classroom know what is expected of them while the individual assessments are being conducted.

Have students who read at Level 4 or higher practice and prepare for the assessment by retelling familiar stories. Have students who are above Level 28 practice constructing written responses for texts they are currently reading. Students may also practice for the assessment with texts that are not part of DRA2 by using the generic Blackline Masters found in the back of your Teacher Guide.

This worksheet is titled "Text Features and Prediction". It includes a section for "Text Features" with a prompt: "Think about the title, the pictures you have seen, and what you have read so far. What do you know about the characters _____ and _____?" Below this are several horizontal lines for writing. There is also a "Prediction" section with the prompt: "What are 2 things you think might happen in the rest of the story?" followed by two numbered lines for responses.

This worksheet is titled "Storyboard". It includes a section for "Beginning" with a prompt: "Draw a picture in each box to show what happened in the story." Below this are three large rectangular boxes for drawing. The boxes are labeled "Beginning", "Middle", and "End" with arrows pointing down between them. There are also some faint lines and text within the boxes, possibly for writing.

**Step 8:
Select/Prepare
Location**

Finally, choose a location for conducting the assessment. It should be in an area that is quiet and free from distractions, but make sure it is in a location where the rest of the class is visible. It should be possible to talk with each student comfortably while the other students are working quietly. It is important that texts being read aloud are not overheard by other students. The texts must be new to each individual student or the assessment results could be skewed. Generally, a small table is sufficient.

Have the assessment materials, a pen or pencil, a stopwatch, and a calculator for Levels 14–40 ready. Remember, the DRA2 kit has a built-in stopwatch and calculator with the clipboard.

It may be useful to use a recording device during the conferences. Some teachers find it helpful to review the conference a second time or use the recordings to document student progress over time.

Review

This guide discussed the eight steps that should be completed before giving DRA2 in Grades K–3. The steps are

- checking books and forms;
- making copies;
- assembling materials;
- reviewing the Record of Oral Reading;
- reading Benchmark Assessment Books;
- creating timelines and planning activities;
- prepping students; and
- choosing an appropriate testing location.