3. Brittany – 5th Grade

The **Beginning** and **Advanced Decoding Surveys** were administered to Brittany because she scored at "Basic" on the reading portion of her 4th grade state assessment. Her mother asked the authors of this book to help find out why she was not scoring higher on her state test because Brittany had been administered a battery of assessments that identified her IQ as 120.

Brittany's Screening Assessment Scores

DIBELS - Beginning of Year

Instructional Recommendation: *Strategic - Needs Additional Intervention*

Measure	Score	Risk Category	Accuracy Percentage
Oral Reading Fluency (ORF)	92	Some Risk	91%

Brittany's Diagnostic Decoding Surveys Scores

Beginning Decoding Survey

Words Read Correctly (out of 50 total)	Error Column Totals							
	No Try	Sight Word	Sound Added or Omitted	Consonant		Short Vowel	Digraph & Letters qu	Blend
				Initial	Final			
44	0	1	0	0	2	6	1	0

Advanced Decoding Survey

Words Read Correctly (out of 30 total)	Error Column Totals							
	No Try	Sound Added or Omitted	Consonant		Short Vowel	Digraph & Trigraph	Blend	Advanced Vowel
			Initial	Final				
	0	5	1	3	4	1	2	5
	Multi-Syllable Words							
13	Nonsense Words				Real Words			
	5				0			

Brittany's Instructional Recommendation

DIBELS ORF score shows that Brittany read at a rate lower than the WCPM benchmark of 104 for the beginning of 5th grade, and that she read the passage with only 91% accuracy. The **Diagnostic Decoding Surveys** show that Brittany has decoding weaknesses, so her intervention instruction should begin with phonics.

Brittany needs phonics instruction in short vowel sounds, and she needs practice using phonics principals to read unfamiliar words. The obvious difference between her strong ability to read real words and her inability when reading nonsense words demonstrates that she has a strong orthographic memory and a poor ability to read words that she does not know by sight.

Once Brittany learns to read unfamiliar words with short vowel sounds, she will need explicit instruction and extensive practice in reading real and unfamiliar words with advanced vowel sounds and multi-syllable words.

REALLY GREAT READING'S **Phonics Blitz**™ lessons would be appropriate for Brittany. She should be in a group no larger than 8 so that all students have ample time for oral reading practice. **Phonics Blitz** lessons would give Brittany fast-paced systematic, explicit phonics and phonemic awareness instruction, along with extensive practice reading decodable words and sentences. In addition, **Phonics Blitz** emphasizes accuracy and comprehension when reading non-decodable content area text.

Detailed Analysis of Brittany's Decoding Surveys

Exhibit 13.4 is Brittany's **Beginning DS** and Exhibit 13.5 is Brittany's **Advanced DS**.

Overview

Brittany's **Beginning DS** *Words Read Correctly* score is 44, which is only 4 below the benchmark of 48. Her error column totals show that her major problem is short vowels (6 errors). Examination of the specific errors shows two things: with one exception, Brittany's errors were with nonsense words, and she misread the final five nonsense words as real words.

Brittany's **Advanced DS** *Words Read Correctly* score is 13, which means she missed more than half the words. Of the 8 nonsense words with short vowels, she misread 6 by turning them into real words. This is the same pattern that occurred on the **Beginning DS**.

Brittany also misread all 5 multi-syllable nonsense words while reading all 5 multi-syllable real words accurately.

Strengths

- **Reads single-syllable and multi-syllable real words accurately**

Weaknesses

- **Not solid with short vowel spelling patterns or short vowel letter sounds**
  - Missed the short vowels in 4 nonsense words in isolation on the **Beginning DS** and 4 single-syllable nonsense words on the **Advanced DS**.
- **Not solid with advanced vowel spellings**
  - Missed the advanced vowels in 5 words on the **Advanced DS**.
- **Difficulty reading unfamiliar multi-syllable words**
  - Misread all 5 nonsense multi-syllable words on the **Advanced DS**.
    - This is likely because the vowels confuse her, as shown when she reads single-syllable nonsense words.
- **Guesses when reading words**
  - Added or omitted 5 sounds to single-syllable words on the **Advanced DS**.
    - When a student adds or omits sounds in a word, it confirms she is guessing because she is not limiting himself to reading just the letters in the word. Brittany's confusion with vowel sounds causes her to have to guess at words, often resulting in adding or omitting a sound when she guesses.

Exhibit 13.4

3. Brittany

Beginning Decoding Survey

Student __Brittany__

Grade __5__ Date __September 14, 2005__

Examiner __Michael H.__

BEGINNING DECODING SURVEY — RECORDING FORM **A**

Error Grid

Observations

Check the appropriate boxes:
- ☐ Reads sound by sound, then blends word
- ☒ Possible b/d or b/p reversal
- ☐ Quick to guess
- ☐ Slow

Real Words

			No Try	Sight Word	Sound Added or Omitted	Initial Consonant	Final Consonant	Short Vowel		Blend
Sight Words	1	see ✓								
	2	one ✓								
	3	they ✓								
	4	you ✓								
	5	are ✓								
CVC Words	6	rag ✓		NA					Consonant Digraph: ch, sh, ck, wh, th	
	7	lid ✓		NA						
	8	dot ✓		NA						
	9	hum ✓		NA					Letters qu	
	10	bet ✓		NA						
Digraphs & Short Vowels	11	rich ✓		NA			NA			
	12	shop ✓		NA		NA				
	13	tack ✓		NA			NA			
	14	quit ✓		NA		NA				
	15	moth ✓		NA			NA			Blend
Blends & Short Vowels	16	dust ✓		NA				NA		
	17	step ✓		NA				NA		
	18	trip ✓		NA				NA		
	19	pond ✓		NA				NA		
	20	brag ✓		NA				NA		

Sentences (irregularly spelled sight words are in *italics*)

		No Try	Sight Word	Sound Added or Omitted	Initial Consonant	Final Consonant	Short Vowel		
21–26	*The* ✓ cat ✓ hid ✓ in ✓ *a* ✓ the ✓ box.		✗					NA	NA
27–35	*The* ✓ fresh ✓ fish ✓ *is* ✓ still ✓ on ✓ *the* ✓ wet ✓ grass. ✓								
36–42	Six ✓ flat ✓ shells ✓ *were* ✓ in ✓ *my* ✓ bath. ✓								

Nonsense Words

			No Try	Sight Word	Sound Added or Omitted	Initial Consonant	Final Consonant	Short Vowel	Digraph & Letters qu	Blend
CVC	43	vop ✓		NA				NA	NA	
	44	yud ✓		NA				NA	NA	
	45	zin ✓		NA				NA	NA	
	46	keb keep		NA			✗	✗	NA	NA
Digraphs	47	shap sharp shape		NA		NA		✗✗		NA
	48	thid thin		NA		NA	✗			NA
	49	chut shirt		NA		NA		✗	✗	NA
	50	weck week wack		NA			NA	✗✗		NA

44	**Words Read Correctly** (out of 50 total)	**Error Column Totals**	0	1	0	0	2	6	1	0
			No Try	Sight Word	Sound Added or Omitted	Initial	Final	Short Vowel	Digraph & Letters qu	Blend
						Consonant				

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Exhibit 13.5

3. Brittany

Advanced Decoding Survey

Student **Brittany**

Date **September 14, 2005**

ADVANCED DECODING SURVEY   RECORDING FORM **A**

Error Grid

Observations — *Check the appropriate boxes:*
- ☐ Reads sound by sound, then blends word
- ☒ Possible b/d or b/p reversal
- ☐ Quick to guess
- ☐ Slow

	Nonsense Words	Response	No Try	Sound Added or Omitted	Consonant Initial	Consonant Final	Short Vowel	Consonant Digraph: sh, ch, th, ph Trigraph: dge, tch	Blend	Advanced Vowel
1	fut	flirt		X			X			
2	shab	shame			NA	X	X			
3	thox	✓			NA					
4	lutch	lurch				NA	X			
5	phim	pid			NA	X		X		
6	gred	greed					X	NA		
7	strob	stop		X			X	NA	X	
8	misp	mist				X		NA	X	
9	yume	alsom		XX	X		NA	NA	NA	X
10	weag	✓					NA	NA	NA	
11	jaib	jab					NA	NA	NA	X
12	soam	✓					NA	NA	NA	
13	foom	✓					NA	NA	NA	
14	vawk	✓					NA	NA	NA	
15	soid	sōd					NA	NA	NA	X
16	zout	✓					NA	NA	NA	
17	foy	✓				NA	NA	NA	NA	
18	fird	fried		X			NA	NA	NA	X
19	gorf	gŏf					NA	NA	NA	X
20	lerm	✓					NA	NA	NA	
Error Column Totals			0	5	1	4	4	1	2	5
			No Try	Sound Added or Omitted	Initial Consonant	Final Consonant	Short Vowel	Digraph & Trigraph	Blend	Advanced Vowel

Row sections: One Syllable & One Vowel (1–8), VCE (9), Vowel Teams (10–17), Vowel + R (18–20)

Multi-Syllable Words

	Nonsense Words	Response	Incorrect or No Try
21	kimplut	kirp	X
22	gruckle	griddle	X
23	slafnode	zafōde	X
24	dirper	dripper	X
25	panventic	panishic	X
	Multi-Syllable Nonsense Word Errors		5

	Real Words	Response	Incorrect or No Try
26	fantastic	✓	
27	several	✓	
28	attached	✓	
29	recognize	✓	
30	lotion	✓	
	Multi-Syllable Real Word Errors		0

13 **Words Read Correctly** (out of 30 total)