

Teacher Knowledge Survey and the Importance of Teacher Knowledge in Becoming a Science of Reading School

Hundreds of research articles have confirmed, teachers play a pivotal role in shaping students' academic growth. When it comes to literacy development, a solid foundation is the key to unlocking the full potential of our young learners. Teachers who possess a deep understanding of foundational literacy skills can effectively impart this knowledge to their students, paving the way for improved reading comprehension and overall language proficiency.

Research consistently shows that teacher knowledge is directly linked to student achievement. Educators who are well-versed in phonological awareness, phonics, and decoding strategies can identify and address learning gaps promptly, provide targeted interventions, and facilitate meaningful progress among struggling readers. By empowering our teachers with the necessary knowledge, we are creating a positive ripple effect that extends to each and every student in our school community.

To this end, we have devised this Teacher Knowledge Survey, a simple, quick, yet powerful tool that allows you to measure your teachers' understanding of foundational literacy skill concepts. This survey comprises questions that gauge their understanding of basic phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics patterns, and syllable types – all of which are essential components of evidence-based reading instruction.

The survey consists of 11 questions, each designed to evaluate specific aspects of their literacy knowledge. A correct score of 70% is deemed good, but to truly be proficient in this domain, we aim for a score of 80% or higher (9/11). With an answer key provided, this survey enables you to gauge the preparedness of your educators to effectively teach these essential skills to their students.

By utilizing the insights gathered from the Teacher Knowledge Survey, we can identify areas for professional development and support your educators in acquiring the necessary expertise. This proactive approach aligns with our vision of becoming a Science of Reading school, where evidence-based reading instruction is at the forefront of our educational practices.

Let us work together to create a brighter future for our students.

Tips for Administration:

- Provide each teacher with a printed copy of the Teacher Knowledge Survey (a single page).
- Have them write their name and date at the top of the page.
- Instruct each teacher to take the survey individually, without collaborating with others (a closed book test).
- While there is no strict time limit, most teachers should be able to complete it within 5 minutes.
- An answer key is provided to check survey answers.

TEACHER KNOWLEDGE SURVEY

1. What is the second phoneme in **write**?

/w/ /r/ /ī/

2. How many phonemes are in **thatch**?

6 4 3

3. How many graphemes are in **thatch**?

6 5 3

4. The word **chest** has a:

Consonant blend Digraph Both

5. How many phonemes are in the English language?

760 96 44

6. How many of those are vowel phonemes?

530 65 18

7. What is the most obvious difference between phonemic awareness and phonics?

8. What are the two most common syllable patterns that spell long vowel sounds?

closed open v-c-e

9. Underline the closed syllables in these words:

sunset frozen repeat

10. Circle the letter(s) that spells a schwa sound:

zebra arena pilot

11. Translate these phonemes into words:

/n/ /ē/: _____

/k/ /w/ /ī/ /t/: _____

/h/ /ě/ /j/: _____

TEACHER KNOWLEDGE SURVEY..... ANSWER KEY

1. What is the second phoneme in **write**?

/w/

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/ī/

2. How many phonemes are in **thatch**?

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3. How many graphemes are in **thatch**?

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5

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4. The word **chest** has a:

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5. How many phonemes are in the English language?

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7. What is the most obvious difference between phonemic awareness and phonics?

Phonemic awareness is the study of the speech sounds in language. It is a person's ability to focus on and manipulate the individual speech sounds (phonemes) in spoken words, without relating those sounds to letters. Phonics is the systematic relationship between speech sounds and spellings. It involves making explicit connections between the sounds in words and the letters that spell those sounds.

8. What are the two most common syllable patterns that spell long vowel sounds?

closed

open

v-c-e

9. Underline the closed syllables in these words:

sunset

frozen

repeat

10. Circle the letter(s) that spells a schwa sound:

zeba

arena

piot

11. Translate these phonemes into words:

/n/ /ē/: knee

/k/ /w/ /ī/ /t/: quite

/h/ /ē/ /j/: hedge