

WHAT IS NONSENSE WORD FLUENCY?

A nonsense word is a word in which the letters make their most common sounds but the word has no commonly recognized meaning. (ex. tist, lof)

Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF) assesses knowledge of basic letter-sound correspondences and the ability to blend letter sounds into consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) and vowel-consonant (VC) words.

One reason that nonsense words are considered to be a good indicator of the alphabetic principle is that make believe words (or pseudo words) have no meaning and reading them demonstrates the student's ability to apply letter sound (grapheme-phoneme) knowledge in decoding. (Rathvon, 2004, p. 138). The student cannot guess the word.

There are two scores for NWF. The Correct Letter Sounds (CLS) is the number of letter sounds produced correctly in 1 minute. For example, if the nonsense word was