

## Informal Writing and Spelling Assessment Resources

### Informal Observations

The Qualitative Spelling Checklist is available in Appendix A of [Words Their Ways, 6th Edition, Word Study for Phonics, Vocabulary, and Spelling Instruction](#) or available online through the [PD Toolkit](#). The Concepts About Print (CAP) is available online through the PD Toolkit. The PD Toolkit is included with the purchase of this book and includes an assessment tool with downloadable inventories and feature guides, as well as interactive classroom composites (for more than one grade level) that help you monitor your students' development throughout the year.

### Handwriting

The Screener of Handwriting Proficiency is located on the [Handwriting Without Tears website](#). Their webinar, entitled "Screening for Success: The Importance of Handwriting Assessments in Every K-5 Classroom," is available at this [link](#). I created a handout entitled, "Assessing Handwriting Automaticity/Fluency," which is available with my [second webinar](#). This provides you with a choice of two assessments that can be used to assess a student's handwriting fluency.

### Unaided Writing Analysis

[The Writing Revolution: A Guide to Advancing Thinking Through Writing in All Subjects and Grades by Judith Hochman and Natalie Wexler](#)

[Dyslexia and Spelling, Making Sense of it All](#) by Dr Kelli Sandman Hurley

[“How to Spot Dyslexia in a Writing Sample”](#) A free webinar by Susan Barton. You can e-mail Susan Barton at [Susan@brightsolutions.us](mailto:Susan@brightsolutions.us) with the words “Handout Writing Sample” in the subject title, to request the slides for this webinar and her writing sample checklist.

[Visual Writing Prompts](#) by WriteShop

The handouts, *“Instructions to Parents-How to Administer an Unaided Writing Sample”* and *“How to Score an Unaided Writing Sample”*, are available with my webinar [“Informal Assessment of Writing and Spelling Deficits.”](#) As part of this webinar, participants are also provided with forms to use when analyzing a writing sample for recording both quantitative data (which can be measured and allows children to be compared with their peers) and qualitative data, such as spelling errors, or miscues. This qualitative data allows us to see how well a student understands the English writing system.

My webinar, [Informal Assessment of Writing and Spelling Deficits](#), also discusses alternatives to the Writing Sample. These include:

- Diagnostic worksheets available with The Writing Revolution book, and through their [web site](#).
- [A Sentence Completion Test](#)
- The Writing Checklist for Holistic and Analytic Evaluation available on page 226 of [Writing Assessment and Instruction for Students with Learning Disabilities](#)
- Cloze Procedure and Scrambled Sentences.

## Spelling Inventories

[Words Their Ways 6th Edition, Word Study for Phonics, Vocabulary and Spelling Instruction](#) contains a full range of spelling inventories for Grades K-12,

and explains how to administer, score, and interpret each inventory. The assessments and feature guides are available in book form or online, as part of the PDToolKit, mentioned above. The PDToolKit also provides online guides for all three inventories. [Words Their Way With English Learners](#) provides detailed discussion of spelling development, assessment, and instruction for English learners, along with inventories in several languages. Limited instructions and the feature guides are also available online at the [Words Their Way website](#). A list of Spelling Inventories and guidance on how to use the “Words Their Way” inventories are available as part of my [second webinar](#).

## Informal and Diagnostic (normed) Spelling Tests

[The OGOA Informal Assessment of Encoding Skills](#)

[The Diagnostic Spelling Tests-DiSTs, DisTn and DiSTi](#)

Spelling Tests, Spelling Inventories (see above), and Spell Checks.

Spelling tests can also be administered on a weekly basis to monitor a child’s ongoing progress. Spell checks and Goal Setting Progress Monitoring Charts are available for students K-12 on the [PD Toolkit](#) web site and available for each spelling stage from *the Early Letter Name-Alphabetic to the Early Derivational Relations*. Charts make explicit what must be learned to reach the ultimate long-term goal of which stage your student must achieve to succeed at the next grade level. Spell checks can be used between the inventories. Spell checks are like mini inventories.

Spell Checks or weekly Phonic Check Ins are discussed in the [Reading Horizons Podcast, “Beyond the Weekly Spelling Test : What Works and Why it Matters.”](#) This podcast interviews a number of experts in the field of spelling and

discusses ways to improve spelling. Their web page includes links to a number of articles about spelling.

Another way of assessing spelling is to use *Premade Spelling CBM Probe Sheets*. Many teachers design their own spelling CBM lists, but AIMSweb and Pearson Publishing have compiled graded standard spelling word lists of the most frequently occurring words, using seven commonly used spelling series and reading word lists. These can be found on their [web site](#). These lists are for grades 1-8 and there is a cost for materials. When using spelling probes, such as the ones available at Aimsweb, you can score based on two elements.

1. # of words spelled correctly (WSC)
2. # of correct letter sequences (CLS)

I have provided a handout entitled "*Curriculum Based Measurements for Spelling and How to Assess A Spelling Test*" to explain this kind of scoring in my [second](#) webinar.