

# Chapter 5



# PM Benchmark Reading Assessment Resources



**PM Benchmark Reading Assessment Resources** identify students' instructional or independent reading levels and identify the knowledge, skills and strategies students use when reading. The Resources also allow teachers to assess students' fluency, assess students' retelling strategies and determine students' comprehension understanding within and beyond the text. Teachers may analyse this information to make informed decisions about students' future development.

Teachers can use the **PM Benchmark Reading Assessment Resources** to assess students' reading abilities using unseen, meaningful texts. Guidelines on how to administer the texts and interpret assessment data are also included in the teachers' notes. Each benchmark text has a prepared Student Record pro forma.

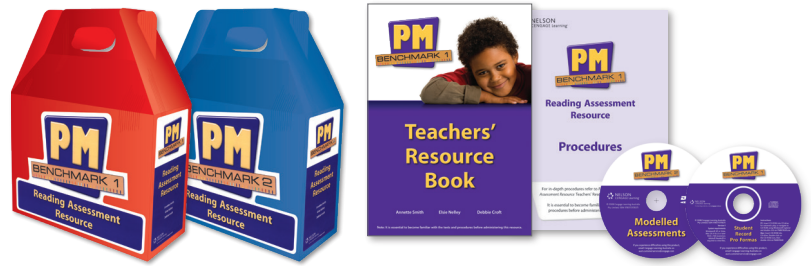
The **PM Benchmark Reading Assessment Resources** offer:

- a quality assessment resource
- a system for accurate identification of students' reading levels
- evidence of students' achievement and progress
- a vehicle for consistent assessment practices within and between schools
- data for school review and community feedback.



# Components of PM Benchmark Reading Assessment Resources

The **PM Benchmark Reading Assessment Resources** comprise two kits (Resource 1 and 2). Each **PM Benchmark Reading Assessment Resources** kit contains Levelled Texts, a *Teachers' Resource Book*, a *Student Record* for each text, a CD containing printable student records, a *Procedures Card*, a product overview and a Professional Development DVD. **PM Benchmark RAR Software** is also available (see p. 3).



## Levelled Texts (books levels 1-20, cards levels 21-30)

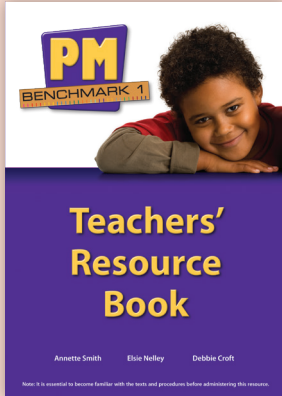
Each **PM Benchmark Reading Assessment Resource** provides 46 accurately levelled fiction and non-fiction texts, ranging progressively from emergent levels to reading age 12. Included is one fiction text per level for levels 1-14 and one fiction and one non-fiction text per level for levels 15-30. The kit includes books at levels 1-20 and literacy cards at levels 21-30. As the length of the text used to assess a student's reading level remains the same throughout the process (100-150 words), the shorter but more advanced cards are provided for the upper levels.

Each **PM Benchmark** text, levels 1-30, has been trialled with children of an appropriate reading age to guarantee the suitability and readability of the text for a specific level.



## Teachers' Resource Books

The *Teachers' Resource Books* have been explicitly developed to help teachers assess and analyse students' reading achievements. The *Teachers' Resource Books* include helpful information on how to use each component of the resource. The accompanying CD includes printable student record pro formas in PDF format.



## Student Records

Each *Student Record* is a comprehensive four-page pro forma clearly outlining a student's current achievement in reading for each text. The information on a *Reading Record* identifies the cues and strategies that a student uses while processing print. Reading levels can be identified when accuracy and self-correction rates are calculated. The *Assessment Record* includes retelling, questions and an analysis of the student's *Reading Record*. The retelling identifies the students' level of understanding as they read. By responding to the questions, students recall and explore details from the text.

## Modelled Assessments DVD

The *Modelled Assessments DVD* contains FAQs and professional development videos to assist teachers as they assess students' reading levels.



## Procedures Cards

The *Procedures Card* included in each **PM Benchmark Reading Assessment Resource** provides a summary of the recommended procedures for taking a reading assessment. The use of standard procedures for reading assessments ensures that consistent and valid information is gathered by all assessors.

## PM Benchmark Reading Assessment Resource Software

The **PM Benchmark RAR Software** allows the user to input data from the student records to generate a detailed summary of the student's literacy progress. The software determines and calculates reading behaviours such as reading accuracy rate, error rate, self-correction rate and other miscues; summarises students' level of understanding in retelling and comprehension; and identifies independent and instructional reading levels. It is accessible on any device and is accurate, efficient and easy to use.



For in-depth procedures refer to PM Benchmark Reading Assessment Resource Teachers' Resource Book pages 24-39. It is essential to become familiar with the text and procedures before administering the assessment.

PM Reading Level Table		
	Error Rate	Accuracy
Independent	1:1-00	99%
	1:1-50	98%
	1:1-35	97%
	1:1-25	96%
Instructional	1:20	95%
	1:1-17	94%
	1:1-14	93%
	1:1-12.5	92%
Difficult	1:11.25	91%
	1:1-10	90%
	1:1-9	89%
	1:1-8	87.5%
	1:1-7	85.5%
	1:1-6	83%
	1:1-5	80%

**Calculate Error Rate and Accuracy**  
Divide the number of words read by the number of errors, e.g. 140 (number words) ÷ 4 (E) = Error rate of 1:35 = 97% accuracy.  
Accuracy =  $\frac{140}{144}$  =  $\frac{11}{12}$  =  $\frac{11}{12}$  %

**Calculate Self-correction Rate**  
1. Add both errors and self-corrections together.  
2. Divide by the number of self-corrections, e.g.  $\frac{4(E) + 8(SC)}{8} = 9$   $\frac{1}{9}$  = 1:3  
S.C. rate =  $\frac{8}{9}$  =  $\frac{8}{9}$  =  $\frac{8}{9}$  %

**PM Benchmark Reading Assessment Procedures**

Set at a table or desk in a quiet space with the student. Put the student at ease. Explain what is going to happen and why. Introduce the text by reading the title and the orientation to the student. Do not expand upon the content of the book/card during this introduction.

**Step 1 Retelling**

1. Prepare the student for the retelling. Say:  
*First, I would like you to read this book/card to yourself. Remember to look carefully at the pictures. Then I will ask you to tell me as much as you can about the story/text.*

If the student asks for assistance while reading the book/card, say:  
*This is a time for you to read by yourself.*

2. When the student has completed the reading, have them close the book/card and place it on the table in front of them. Say:  
*Tell me as much as you can, in your own words, about what you have just read.*

Remain as a neutral observer; only giving prompts if required.  
Tick the relevant boxes on the retelling section of the Student Record.

**Step 2 Reading Record**

1. Point to the cover of the book/card. Say:  
*Now, I would like you to read the book/card to me.*

2. Record accurate reading and miscues on pages 2 and 3 of the Student Record.

**Step 3 Comprehension**

1. Prepare the student for the oral comprehension questions. Say:  
*Now, I am going to ask you some questions about this book/card.*

2. Ask each question on page 4 of the Student Record. Tick the boxes when responses are correct. Record exactly what the student says for incorrect responses.

**Step 4 Analysis**

1. Identify the student's errors and self-corrections. Use the reading level tables to calculate the student's accuracy and self-correction rates.

2. Analyse information from the reading record, retelling indicators and comprehension questions.

3. Use this information to identify recommendations.

Refer to the PM Benchmark Reading Assessment Resource Teachers' Resource Book pages 28-39 for analysis and recommendations.