What are the aimsweb assessments like?

Letter Naming Fluency

Students must point and say the names of the letters (a mixture of upper and lowercase letters). The score is how many letters were correctly identified in one minute.

Letter Sound Fluency

Students must point and say the sound for each letter (all lowercase letters). The score is how many sounds were correctly identified in one minute.

Phoneme Segmentation Fluency

The teacher says a word and the student must say each of the sounds s/he hears in the word. If the teacher said the word stop, the student would then say each sound that makes up that word. If the student correctly said each sound that would be worth four points, one point for each sound. The total score is how many sounds were correctly said in one minute.

Nonsense Word Fluency

Nonsense words are combinations of letters (a vowel and a consonant or a consonant-vowel-consonant) that do not make sense, like av, pag, tid. We use them to check a student's ability to decode and read short vowel words. Using nonsense words removes the chance that a student would be able to recognize a word by sight. Students must say the correct sounds and/or read the word correctly. The score is how many sounds were read correctly.

R-CBM

Students are given 3 passages to read that are written on their grade-level. Students read each passage for one minute. The score is how many words were correctly read in one minute, using the middle score of the three passages. If a student cannot read a word within 3 seconds, the teacher tells the student the word so reading can continue. When teachers review this assessment, we look at how many words were read correctly in one minute, the accuracy rate for the passage, and what types of errors were made.

MAZE

Students are given a passage that has words removed. Students must silently read the passage and circle the correct word out of three choices that best completes the sentence. Students have 3 minutes to complete this task. This measures literal comprehension. The score is how many correct words were selected in three minutes.