

Verizon Life Span Literacy Matrix: Elementary School Literacy Measures

Test — Phonological Awareness and Literacy Screening – Kindergarten (PALS-K)

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Purpose — The major purpose of the PALS-K is to identify students who are below grade-level expectations in several important literacy fundamentals and thus are at risk of reading difficulties and delays. As a diagnostic tool, PALS-K can be used to assess what students already know about the English writing system and what they need to learn to become readers.

Population — The PALS-PreK is designed for use with kindergarten children.

Time — The PALS-PreK can be administered in 20-25 minutes.

Description

The *phonological awareness* component of the PALS-K instrument is a measure of young children's ability to identify rhyme units and isolate beginning sounds. The *literacy* component of the PALS-K instrument is a measure of young children's knowledge of important literacy fundamentals: (a) alphabet knowledge, (b) knowledge of letter sounds, (c) phoneme-grapheme correspondences, (d) concept-of-word, and (e) word recognition.

Benefits

PALS provides an assessment tool that clearly meets screening and diagnostic assessment purposes, and a mid-year assessment tool aimed at progress monitoring.

Validity/Reliability

PALS-K has good evidence of reliability and construct, concurrent, and predictive validity. PALS-K shows evidence of both internal consistency and inter-rater reliability, indicating that it can be administered and scored consistently by different users. PALS-K also shows evidence of content, construct, and criterion-related validity, suggesting that PALS-K indeed captures the underlying constructs associated with emergent literacy.

Cost

- PALS-K Teacher Set (includes materials for a teacher to screen 25 students in fall and spring and a PALS-K Assessment Training CD) - \$95
- PALS-K Administrator Set (includes materials for a principal to reference the assessment that includes one of each fall and spring screening item, a technical reference, and a PALS-K Assessment Training CD) - \$75

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Source

This document is a summary of information found on the publisher's Web site.

University of Virginia Bookstore

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<http://pals.virginia.edu/PALS-Instruments/PALS-K.asp>