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#### Agenda

Importance of assessment of vocabulary and oral language skills in preschool

Overview of the PELI: Preschool Early Literacy Indicators

Administration and scoring of vocabulary-oral language

Practice

Case study

Discussion and questions

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Importance of Assessing Vocabulary and Oral Language in Preschool

# Start Early Grade 1 Grade 2 Grade 3 Grade 4 Grade 5 Cohort Cohor

The Issue: Differences in Reading Trajectories

What do Reading Trajectories Have to Do with Vocabulary and Oral Language in Preschool?

Relationship between reading and language skills

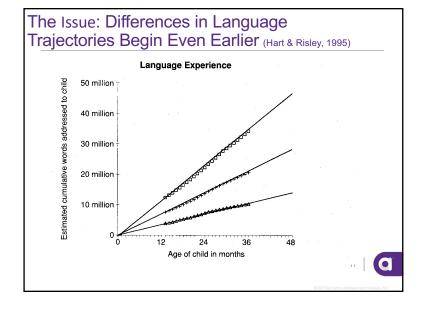
- ► Decoding skills are supported by vocabulary, syntactic and semantic understandings. (Share, 1999)
- ► Strong link between development of oral language and the development of phonological awareness. (Dickinson et al., 2003; Storch & Whitehurst, 2002; Whitehurst & Lonigan, 1998)
- ► Variations in oral language abilities account for differences in reading comprehension more significant than age, nonverbal ability or non-word reading. (Nation & Snowling 2004)



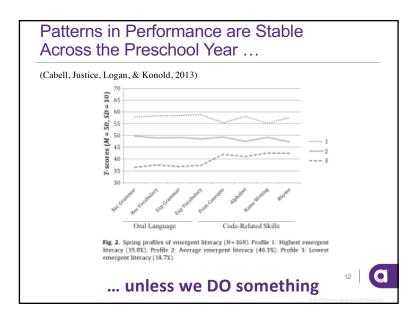
#### Skills at Kindergarten Entry Make a Difference

- ▶ Children who enter kindergarten with welldeveloped language and emergent literacy skills are more likely to benefit from kindergarten instruction in learning to read and become proficient readers.
- ▶ Children who lack language and emergent literacy skills at kindergarten entry are more likely to have later reading difficulties

NICHD Early Child Care Research Network, 2005; National Early Literacy Panel, 2008; National Research Council, 1998







#### What Do We Need to Do? Promote Vocabulary and Oral Language Development Early

Identify children early who may need additional support in acquiring vocabulary and oral language skills

- ▶ Provide additional support
- ► Monitor progress
- ► Modify support as needed
- ▶ Evaluate outcomes



#### Vocabulary and Oral Language: What Is It?

- ► Knowledge of words and word meanings
- ▶ The ability to put words together in simple sentences with correct grammar and syntax to communicate needs, wants, ideas and information







#### Promote Vocabulary and Oral Language Development *Early*

How many words do children learn?

- ▶ Typically developing children acquire 2.2 words a day\* from 1 year of age to the end of grade 2
  - ▶15.4 a week
  - ▶803 a year
- ▶ By age 5, a typically developing child has an oral vocabulary of approximately 3,000 words.\*

\*root words Biemiller, 2005; Biemiller & Slonim, 2001





#### Promote Vocabulary and Oral Language Development *Early*

How many words can you teach?

- ▶2 to 3 a day
- ▶ 10 to 15 a week
- ▶350 to 525 a year



#### Overview of the Preschool Early Literacy Indicators (PELI)

#### What is the PELI?

Preschool Early Literacy Indicators

A storybook embedded assessment of early literacy and language skills for preschool. PELI assesses:

- ► Alphabet knowledge
- ▶ Phonological awareness
- ▶ Vocabulary and oral language
- **▶** Comprehension

#### **PELI Assessment Materials**

Benchmark assessment books

- ▶ Three times per year screening of all children
- ▶ Beginning, middle, and end of year

Interim progress monitoring books

▶ Progress monitoring between benchmarks for some children

Quick checks

▶ More frequent progress monitoring for children receiving intervention in a particular skill area





#### **PELI Books**

10 different books - equally difficult

- ▶5 books for 3-4 year old children
  - ▶3 Benchmark books
  - ▶2 Interim (Progress Monitoring) books
- ▶ 5 books for 4-5 year old
  - ▶3 Benchmark books
  - ▶2 Interim (Progress Monitoring) books
- ▶ Score forms corresponding to each book



#### How to use PELI books

Use benchmark books to assess all children three times per year

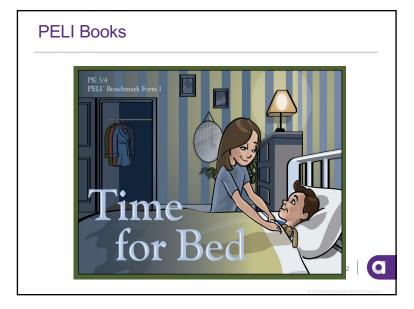
- ▶ Benchmark 1: Beginning of year
- ▶ Benchmark 2: Middle of year
- ▶ Benchmark 3: End of year

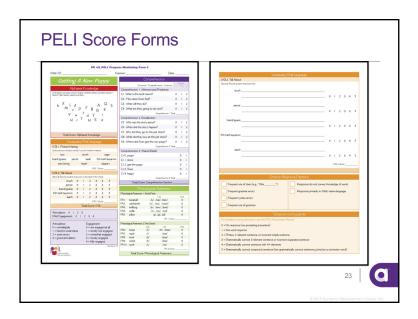
Use interim progress monitoring books to assess some children between benchmark assessments

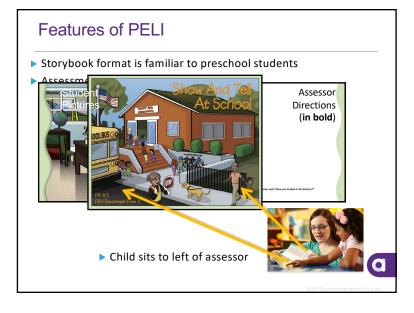
- ► Mid-way between benchmark 1 and 2
- ► Mid-way between benchmark 2 and 3

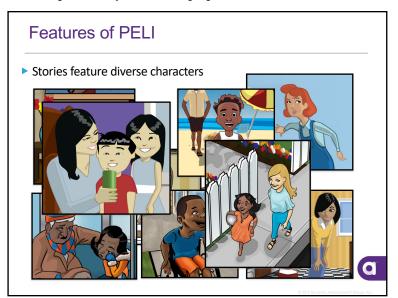












#### Overview: Alphabet Knowledge

- ► Child is asked to name as many letters as he/she knows from an array of letters embedded in theme-related picture.
- Score is number of letters correctly named.





#### Overview: Vocabulary-Oral Language

- ► Child is shown a scene related to the theme of the book.
- ▶ Child is asked to:
- ▶ Name 10 items.
- ► Tell everything he/she can about 5 items.
- Score is total of: a)
  number of pictures
  correctly named and b)
  quality of response rating
  for "Tell About."





27

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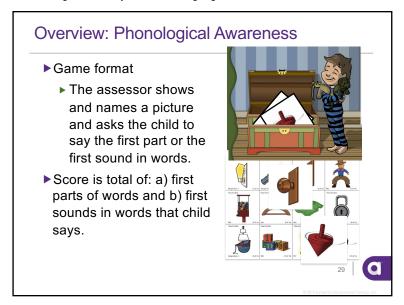
#### Overview: Comprehension

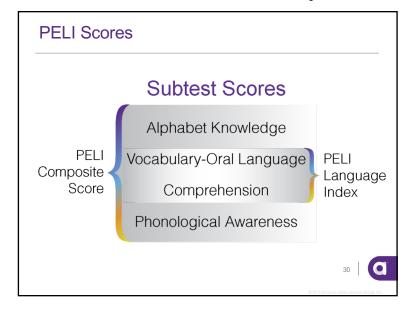
- ► Questions: Assessor reads a story, pausing to ask questions before, during, and after.
- Shared retell: Child fills in missing words during a brief retelling of the story.
- ▶ Score is total of: a) questions answered correctly and b) correct responses during Shared Retell.

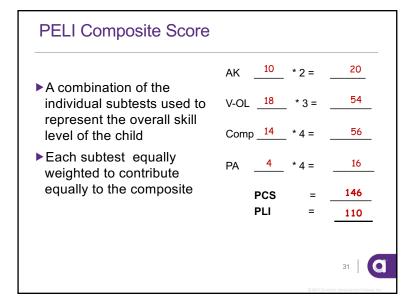




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# PELI Benchmark Goals

What is a benchmark goal?

► A research-based target score that represents the lowest level of performance that predicts reaching the next goal

What is the research base for the benchmark goals?

► How a score at a particular point in time (e.g., beginning of pre-K year) predicts early literacy outcomes (e.g., beginning of K performance on early literacy/language assessments)

#### Benchmark Goals and Cut Points for Risk for 3-4 Year Old Children

Subtest	Benchmark Status	Likely Need for Support	Beginning of Year	Middle of Year	End of Year
Alphabet Knowledge	At/above	Core	1+	3+	5 +
Alphabet knowledge	Below	Strategic	0	1-2	2 - 4
	Well Below	Intensive		0	0-1
Phonological	At/above	Core		1+	2+
Awareness	Below	Strategic		0	0
	Well Below	Intensive			
Vocabulary – Oral	At/above	Core	8+	12+	14 +
Language '	Below	Strategic	4 - 7	6 - 11	8 - 13
	Well Below	Intensive	0 - 3	0-5	0 - 7
Comprehension	At/above	Core	6+	10+	11 +
	Below	Strategic	2 - 5	5-9	7 - 10
	Well Below	Intensive	0 - 1	0 - 4	0-6
Language Index	At/above	Core	62 +	87 +	100+
	Below	Strategic	33 - 61	50 - 86	59 - 99
	Well Below	Intensive	0 - 32	0 - 49	0 - 58
PELI Composite Score	At/above	Core	68+	101+	128 +
	Below	Strategic	35 - 67	59 - 100	853127
	Well Below	Intensive	0 - 34	0 - 58	0 - 84

#### Benchmark Goals and Cut Points for Risk for 4-5 Year Old Children

Subtest	Benchmark Status	Likely Need for Support	Beginning of Year	Middle of year	End of Year
Alphabet	At/above	Core	6+	17 +	23 +
Knowledge	Below	Strategic	2 - 5	8 - 16	14 - 22
	Well Below	Intensive	0 - 1	0 - 7	0 - 13
Phonological	At/above	Core	4+	10+	13+
Awareness	Below	Strategic	1 - 3	4 - 9	9 - 12
	Well Below	Intensive	0	0 - 3	0 - 8
Vocabulary – Or	ral At/above	Core	18+	21+	23+
Language	Below	Strategic	13 - 17	16 - 20	19 - 22
	Well Below	Intensive	0 - 12	0 - 15	0 - 18
Comprehension	At/above	Core	13 +	16+	17+
	Below	Strategic	10 - 12	12 - 15	14 - 16
	Well Below	Intensive	0 - 9	0 - 11	0 - 13
Index Bel	At/above	Core	114+	132 +	143 +
	Below	Strategic	88 - 113	111 - 131	124 - 142
	Well Below	Intensive	0 - 87	0 - 110	0 - 123
Composite Score B	At/above	Core	159+	201 +	231 +
	Below	Strategic	115- 158	160 - 200	195 - 230
	Well Below	Intensive	0 - 114	0 - 159	0 - 194

#### Research: Reliability and Validity

	PCS	V-OL	Comp	PA	AK	
Reliability						
Inter-scorer	.98	.90	.96	.98	.96	
Alternate-form	.90	.78	.72	.83	.95	
Criterion-related Validity						
CELF Expressive vocabulary	.51	.51	.50	.24	.16	
Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test	.75	.69	.67	.68	.35	
DIBELS Next First Sound Fluency	.62	.35	.40	.65	.51	
DIBELS Next Letter Naming Fluency	.53	.23	.30	.44	.74	
DIBELS Next Composite Score (BOY K)	.64	.32	.39	.61	.70	
Predictive Validity						
CELF Expressive vocabulary	.54	.56	.51	.36	.15	
Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test	.77	.77	.70	.57	.50	
DIBELS Next First Sound Fluency	.60	.34	.36	.61	.51	
DIBELS Next Letter Naming Fluency	.52	.21	.24	.44	.72	
DIBELS Next Composite Score (BOY K)	.63	.31	.34	.59	.69	
					35	;   <b>(</b> (

# Research: Decision Utility for Benchmark Goals (4-5 Year Olds)

Subtest/Score	AUC	Sens	Spec	AC	PPP	NPP
PPVT						
Vocabulary-Oral Language	.80	.74	.78	.76	.63	.85
Comprehension	.73	.54	.83	.74	.63	.78
Language Index	.81	.63	.80	.74	.62	.81
PELI Composite Score	.80	.61	.81	.74	.62	.80
DIBELS						
Alphabet Knowledge	.89	.87	.77	.79	.53	.95
Phonological Awareness	.86	.83	.73	.76	.52	.93
PELI Composite Score	.87	.86	.74	.77	.54	.94

Note: AUC = Area Under Curve; Sens = Sensitivity; Spec = Specificity; AC = Accurate Classification; PPP = Positive Predictive Power; NPP = Negative Predictive Power.

# Research: Decision Utility for Cut Points for Risk (4-5 Year Olds)

Subtest/Score	AUC	Sens	Spec	AC	PPP	NPP
PPVT						
Vocabulary-Oral Language	.90	.70	.91	.88	.62	.94
Comprehension	.86	.61	.98	.92	.88	.93
Language Index	.93	.74	.96	.92	.77	.95
PELI Composite Score	.92	.70	.94	.90	.70	.94
DIBELS						
Alphabet Knowledge	.95	.85	.91	.90	.58	.97
Phonological Awareness	.89	.77	.87	.86	.48	.96
PELI Composite Score	.91	.77	.88	.87	.50	.96

Note: AUC = Area Under Curve; Sens = Sensitivity; Spec = Specificity; AC = Accurate Classification; PPP = Positive Predictive Power; NPP = Negative Predictive Power.



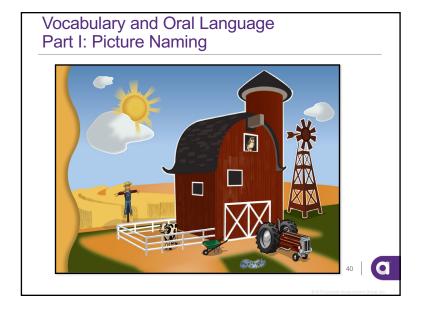


Assessing Vocabulary and Oral Language

# Vocabulary and Oral Language Part I: Picture Naming

Vocabulary and Oral Language
Child is shown a picture of a scene and asked to name common objects in the picture.
1 point for each object correctly named
What's another name for it?  Do you know what it is called in English?  What is the whole thing called?  What is just this part called?
Discontinue if child gives no response on the first three items. Go on to "Tell About."





10

#### **Picture Naming Directions**

V-OL 1. Here is a picture of a farm. I am going to point to some things and you tell me what they are.

Point to each picture and ask, What is this? or Do you know what this is? for the following words:

1. cow 2. sun 6. barn7. fence

8. wheelbarrow

4. tractor5. scarecrow

3. owl

9. windmill 10. puddle



11



#### Vocabulary and Oral Language Part II: Tell About Early Literacy Vocabulary and Oral Language Skill Child is asked to tell all he/she can about 5 **Format** words. Quality of response rating on 0–5 point scale What do you do with a \_\_\_\_? What is a \_\_\_\_\_ for? Prompts What does a \_\_\_\_\_ do? Discontinue if child gives no response on the Discontinue first three words. 42

#### **Tell About Directions**

Now I want you to tell me everything you can about some words. My turn first. I will tell you everything I can about an owl (point to the owl). An owl is a kind of bird that flies around at night and it says, "Hoo." Now it is your turn.

If the child has not named the picture correctly, say, *This is a* \_\_\_\_\_\_ before asking him/her to tell you about it:

- 1. Tell me everything you can about a cow.
- 2. Tell me everything you can about a barn.
- 3. Tell me everything you can about a tractor.
- 4. Tell me everything you can about a wheelbarrow.
- 5. Tell me everything you can about a puddle.





# Video: Ben and On the Farm

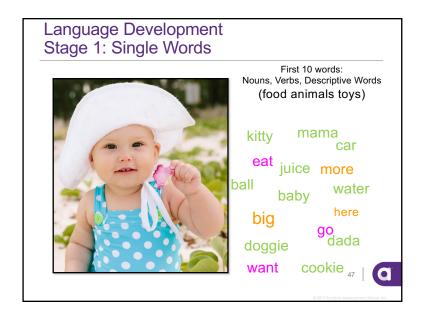
#### Tell About Quality of Response Rating

Follows progression of early childhood language development:

- 0 No response or incorrect/irrelevant response
- 1 One word response
- 2 Phrase, correct two-element sentence,
- 3 Correct three-element sentence,
- 4 Correct expanded sentence
- 5 Correct compound sentence









#### Language Development Stage 3: Three-Element Sentences

Oral vocabulary of 50–100 words





Daddy throw ball
Daddy throw ball

I go Go school I go school

The doggie is big

I run fast I want juice

That is my kitty

The doggie is in the house

I kick a ball





#### Language Development Stage 4: Four + Element Sentences

Oral vocabulary of 900–1000 words

Sentences expand and become more grammatically correct

I like to build with blocks at school.

I went to the movies last night.

I can swing on the swings
with my friends
At the playground.

50



#### Language Development Stages 5-6: Compound/Complex Sentences

Oral vocabulary of 4,000–6,000 words

Sentences become increasingly sophisticated and correct

Ideas are linked in sentences using "connector words" like and,
then, because, if, when, after

I go to sleep in my bedroom when I am tired.

I like to read a story before I go to sleep.

I like it when it is nice out and we can play outside.

The game that I played last night is my favorite.

I am going to my grandma's after I get home from school today.





## Language Development by Age 5 – Kindergarten Entry



Oral vocabulary of 5,000–8,000 words

Easily use complex sentences that link two or more ideas

Sentences are, for the most part, grammatically correct

52



#### Tell About Quality of Response Rating

Follows progression of early childhood language development:

- 0 No response or incorrect/irrelevant response
- 1 One word response
- 2 Phrase, correct two-element sentence,
- 3 Correct three-element sentence,
- 4 Correct expanded sentence
- 5 Correct compound sentence





#### **0-Point Responses**

- 0 = No response or response unrelated to target word
- Examples of responses that are clearly unrelated to the target word or convey incorrect information
  - ▶ It tells you how hot it is outside (clock)
  - ► It can help you (lizard)
  - ► It's for push (telescope)
- Examples of responses that are vague and/or do not convey information about the target word:
  - ► *I want it* (merry go round)
  - ► That place (stairs)

Note: You can ask a follow-up question—What do you do with \_\_\_\_? What is a for? Tell me something else about a \_\_\_\_\_.



#### Sentence Elements

Subject: Who or what the sentence is about (noun, pronoun or noun phrase)

Verb: Action – does what/what happens? (verb or verb phrase)

Object: The person or thing affected by the action

Descriptive word:

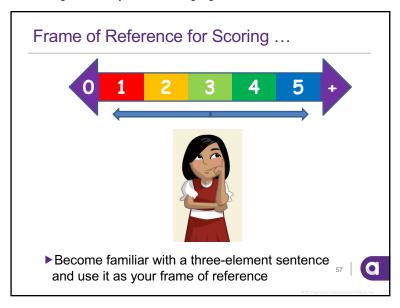
- Adjective: Describes a person, place, or thing
- Adverb: A word or phrase that describes an action, typically tells how, when or where

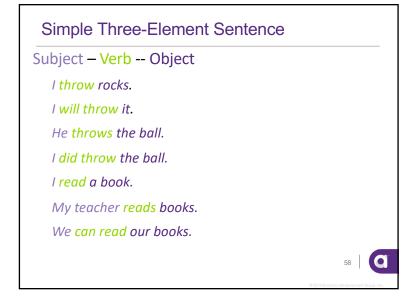
Prepositional phrase: phrase that begins with a preposition (e.g., in, on, under) and ends with a noun or pronoun

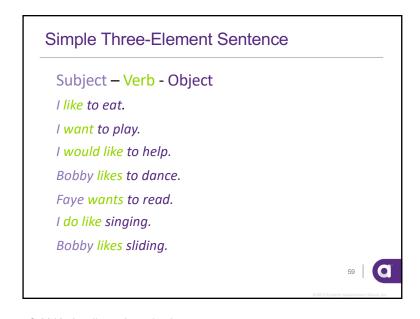


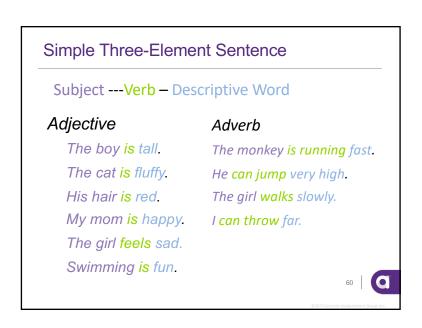


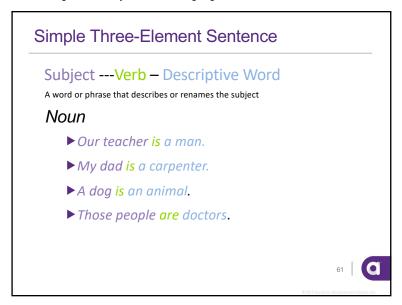


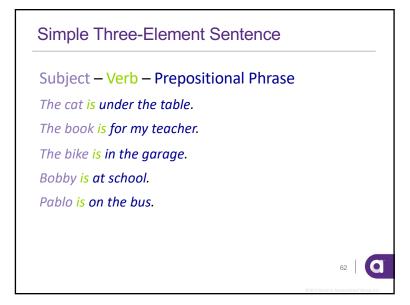


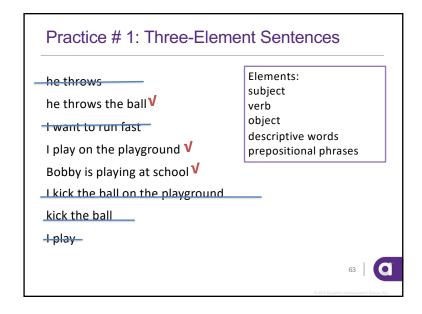


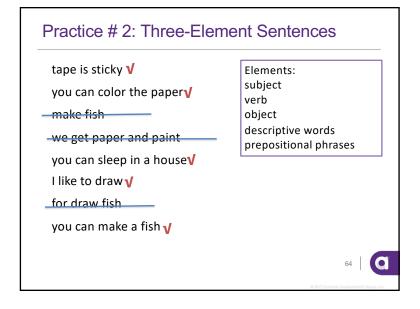


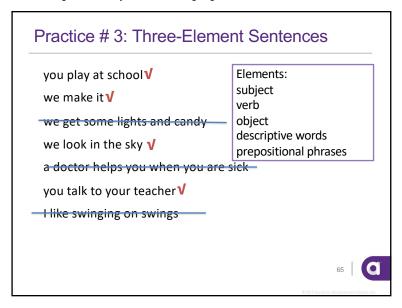


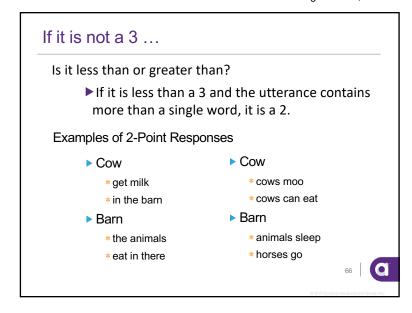


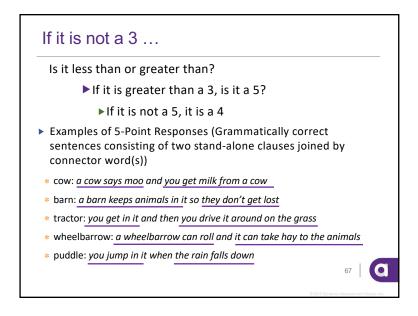


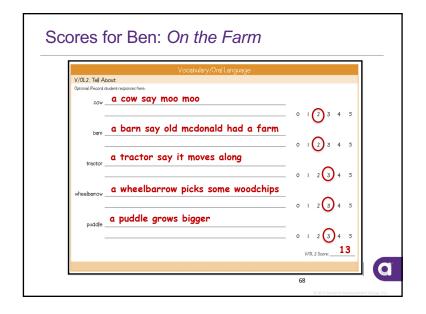


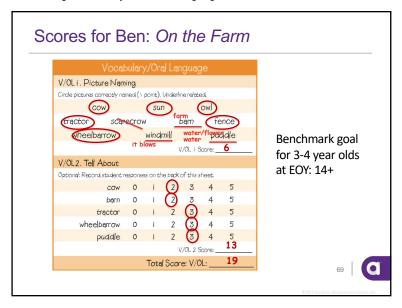


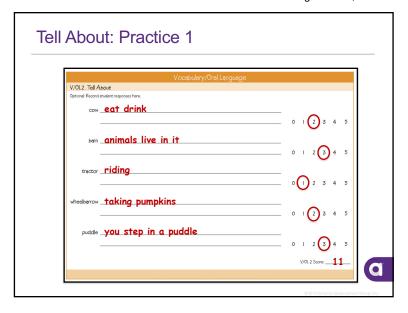


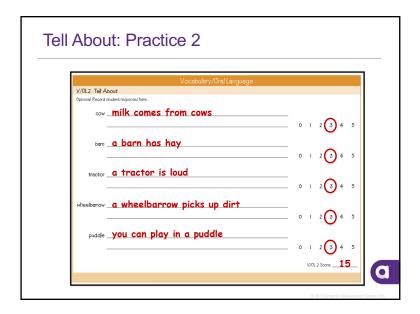


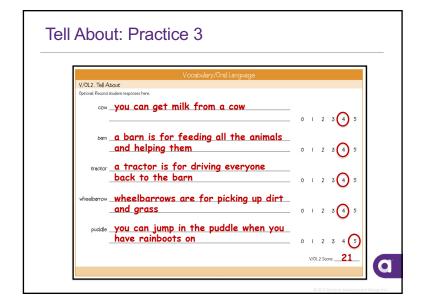


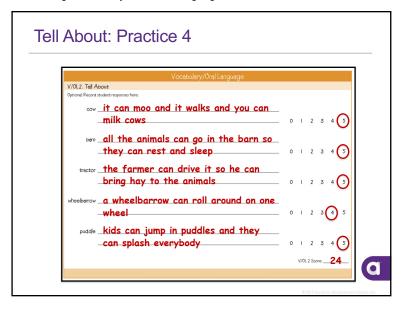


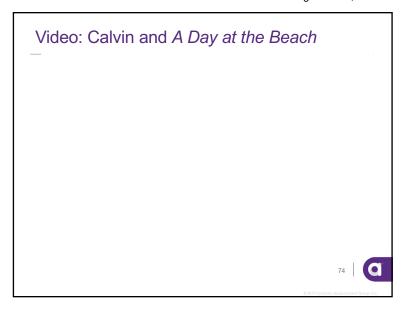


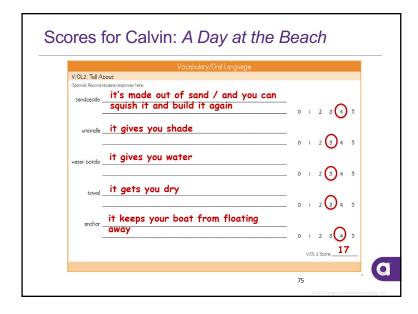


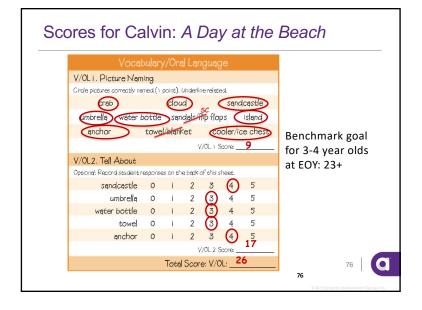






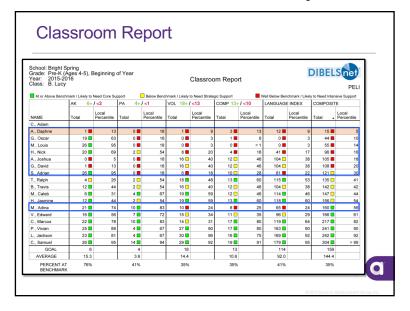


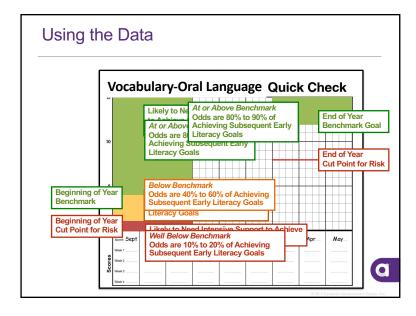


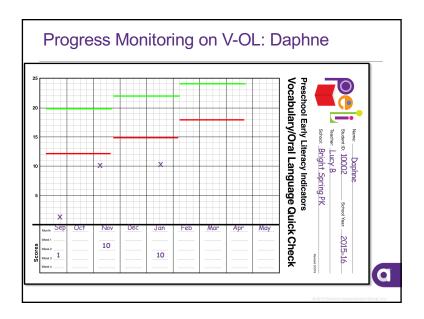


How do we Use the Data?

Case Study





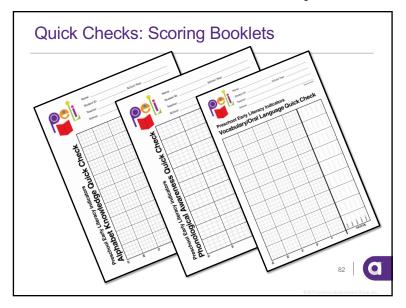


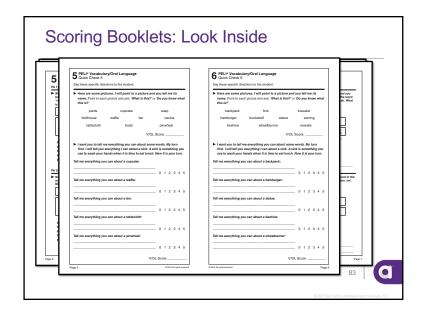
#### More Frequent Progress Monitoring

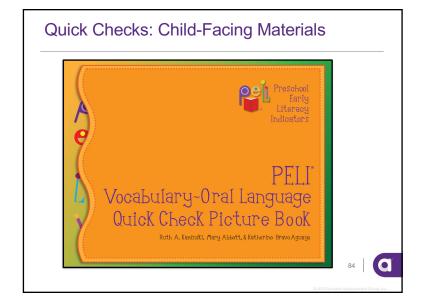
Use weekly/biweekly Quick Checks for children who are receiving additional instructional support in a targeted area.

- ▶ Progress monitoring materials (10 alternate forms) for:
  - ▶ Phonological Awareness
  - ▶ Alphabet Knowledge
  - ▶ Vocabulary-Oral Language

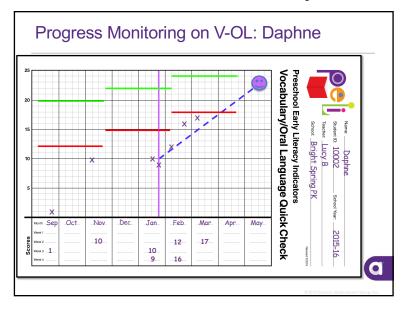
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#### Thank You!!

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