

Educational Vocabulary Primer 1

Parents often receive reports from schools that are filled with educational terms that are poorly understood by non-educators. This is the first in a series of Vocabulary Primers that will define some of these terms to help increase parents' understanding.

Accuracy Rate: The rate at which your child can accurately read text. Measured in words per minute.

Error Rate: This is a ratio of the errors your child makes while reading text.

Fluency: The rate at which your child reads accurately and with understanding.

Formative Assessment: These are assessments based on the curriculum that occur as your child is learning a subject or topic. It is used to monitor the progress your child is making in learning the skill or subject.

Frustrational Level: The level of reading difficulty of text at which your child cannot comprehend the text he/she is trying to read.

Genre: This term refers to the type of literature in the text. Drama, poetry, narratives, etc. are examples of genre

Independent Level: The level of reading difficulty of text at which your child can comprehend the text he/she is trying to read without any help.

Independent Reading Inventory: A test designed to determine your child's oral and listening comprehension level.

Instructional Level: The level of reading difficulty of text at which your child, with the help of a teacher, can comprehend the text he/she is trying to read.

Omission/Insertion: These are terms used in informal reading assessments to indicate the type of error your child may have made while reading orally. An omission is a word skipped; an insertion is a word added which is not in the text.

Phoneme: A term used to indicate the smallest unit of sound.

Phonemic Awareness: A term used to describe your child's awareness that language is composed of small sounds and the ability to manipulate these sounds.

Phonological Awareness: A term used to describe your child's awareness that language is composed of sounds and the understanding of the relationship of these

sounds (words in sentences, syllables, and rhyming).

Reading Conferences: A conference between your child and his/her teacher. The conference might be used to monitor reading progress, develop strategies for improvement, or to assess other reading issues.

Scaffolding: A teaching strategy that helps provide support to your child when he/she has difficulty. The teacher provides additional materials, retouching, or other supports for your child.

Screening Tests: A test your child is given to determine where to begin instruction.

Self-Correction: A term used to describe that your child has made an error in reading but independently returned to the word or phrase and read it correctly.

Sound-Print Connection: A term used to describe your child's understanding of the relationship between print and sound.

Substitution: A term used to describe that your child read a word incorrectly by substituting an other word for the correct word.

Summative Assessment: A test given after a subject or topic has been taught to assess the success of your child in mastering the material.