



FIRST STEPS 4K
mCLASS CIRCLE: SOUTH CAROLINA'S EARLY LITERACY ASSESSMENT
FIRST STEPS 4K BASELINE DATA (BEGINNING OF THE YEAR) - 2014-2015

mClass Circle is a **computer-based early literacy assessment** administered to all publicly-funded **4- and 5-year-old kindergartners** in South Carolina. Enabled by the South Carolina Read to Succeed Act in June 2014, the instrument was procured by the SC Department of Education via competitive bid in August 2014.

First Steps administered the Circle to **1,818 students enrolled in its private, four-year-old kindergarten programs** in September and October 2014, successfully assessing **more than 99% of enrolled students** within the required 45-day testing window. The *baseline data* below reflects **student competencies at the time of enrollment**.

Letter Naming



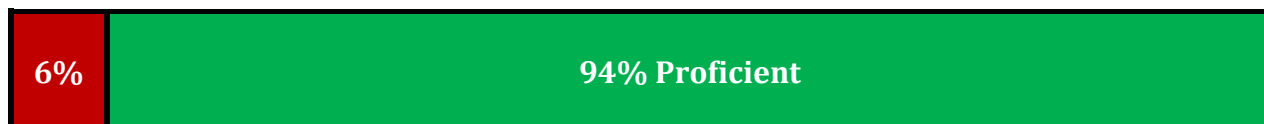
This timed test assesses the number of upper/lower case letters the child can identify. Baseline proficiency in 4K reflects an ability to correctly name at least 9 (for children 4.0-4.5 years of age) or 11 (4.5+ years of age) letters shown in 60 seconds.

Vocabulary



In this timed test students are shown pictures of objects and asked to provide the names of each. Baseline proficiency reflects an ability to correctly name 17 (for children 4.0-4.5 years of age) or 21 (4.5+ years of age) items in 60 seconds.

Phonological Awareness Composite



“Phonological awareness” is a set of listening skills related to the child’s ability to distinguish and manipulate the component sounds of spoken language. Circle’s phonological awareness composite summarizes the results of seven individual subtests (below), each of which measures a distinct aspect of this important and reliable predictor of reading success. Baseline proficiency in 4K reflects the accumulation of at least 11 (4.0-4.5 years of age) or 14 (4.5+ years of age) points across these seven subtests.

Phonological Awareness: Listening

54% Emerging

46% Proficient

The listening subtest assesses the child's ability to selectively focus on an individual sound. (Teacher speaks two words, child determines whether the words are "the same" – e.g. one word repeated twice or two different words.) Baseline proficiency in 4K reflects an ability to respond correctly to 5 of 5 items.

Phonological Awareness: Rhyming 1

66% Emerging

34% Proficient

This untimed subtest assesses the child's ability to determine whether two words spoken words rhyme. Baseline proficiency in 4K reflects an ability to correctly distinguish on at least 7 of 9 questions.

Phonological Awareness: Rhyming 2

78% Emerging

22% Proficient

This untimed subtest assesses the child's ability to independently provide a word that rhymes with a prompt. Baseline proficiency in 4K reflects an ability correctly identify at least 3 rhyming words given five prompts.

Phonological Awareness: Alliteration

80% Emerging

20% Proficient

This untimed subtest assesses the child's ability to identify whether two spoken words begin with the same sound. Baseline proficiency in 4K reflects an ability to correctly distinguish on at least 6 of 7 items.

Phonological Awareness: Words in a Sentence

62% Emerging

38% Proficient

This untimed subtest assesses the child's ability identify the number of words in a short sentence. Students use counting toys, sliding one item forward for each word spoken. Baseline proficiency in 4K reflects an ability correctly identify the number of words in at least 4 of 5 sentences.

Phonological Awareness: Syllabication

65% Emerging

35% Proficient

This untimed subtest assesses the child's ability to separate a spoken word into syllables. Baseline proficiency in 4K reflects an ability to correctly clap/count syllables in at least 6 of 7 words provided.

Phonological Awareness: Onset-Rime

62% Emerging

38% Proficient

This untimed subtest assesses the child's ability to blend two parts of a word together when provided by the teacher. (e.g. "mmm" + "om" = mom) Baseline proficiency in 4K reflects an ability to correctly blend at least 3 of 5 examples provided.