
S.P.I.R.E.® 4th Edition provides a variety of formal and informal assessment opportunities that allow administrators, parents, teachers, and students to track progress in fluency, concept mastery, spelling, and comprehension. Print versions of these assessments are available as blackline masters. Subscribers to S.P.I.R.E. Digital Student STAR seats can score these assessments digitally as well as generate and share reports.

PLACEMENT TEST

S.P.I.R.E. placement is based on student skills, not on a student's grade level. To determine where individual students should begin the program, there are two options:

- The S.P.I.R.E. Placement Test is available with S.P.I.R.E. Digital Student STAR seats and on the S.P.I.R.E. web page. It is divided into two parts that test phonogram identification and word decoding.
- The Initial Placement Assessment is a criterion-referenced printed assessment, providing the information necessary to place students within S.P.I.R.E. It is available for separate purchase.

LEVEL TESTS

- The Pre-/Post-Test for each level provides the opportunity to measure student mastery of level concepts by administering the same assessment before starting, and after completing, the level. As a Pre-Test, this assessment is given to determine a student's preliminary knowledge of the concepts taught in the level, before instruction begins. As a Post-Test, the assessment is given to demonstrate a student's growth or progress, after completing level instruction and before beginning the next level's instruction.

  The Pre-Test and Post-Test are made up of four parts that include reading decodable words and sentences, reading a decodable passage, and responding to short-answer questions on the passage to assess comprehension and vocabulary.

- The Mid-Level Test assesses student mastery of the concepts taught in the first half of the level, checking spelling and decoding skills, concept-by-concept. If students struggle with any specific concept or concepts, they can return to the Reinforcing Lessons of that concept for remediation.

  The Mid-Level Test is made up of two parts where students read and spell a list of words that include concepts from the previously taught lessons in the level.
CONCEPT MASTERY FLUENCY DRILLS

The Concept Mastery Fluency Drills are one-minute drills at the end of each Introductory Lessons that are administered one-on-one with each student to track fluency while the rest of the group completes Independent Practice. They provide students with additional practice to increase automaticity and achieve increasing fluency with key high-frequency decodable words. In addition to their use as a timed assessment, these drills can be used for practice:

✦ outside the lesson, at home, for students who struggle to sound out words; with the student reading the list to or with someone
✦ as a whole-group activity, with teacher and students reading together

CONCEPT ASSESSMENTS

Concept Assessments test each concept in S.P.I.R.E. and occur at the end of each Reinforcing Lesson. They assess students’ ability to decode words and sentences that connect to the concept covered in those lessons. The teacher administers them one-on-one with each student in a similar way as the Concept Mastery Fluency Drills while the rest of the group completes Independent Practice. Students who decode 80 percent or more of the target words correctly are ready to move to the next concept.

SCORING AND REPORTING

✦ S.P.I.R.E. Digital Student STAR seats include all of the assessments described above. While students read and write their answers on paper, the teacher can mark incorrect answers in S.P.I.R.E. STAR, which automatically scores the assessments. This data is then captured and reported, allowing teachers to gain valuable information about how their students are progressing both individually and as a class. The data can be shared with school and district administrators.

✦ For customers who are not using S.P.I.R.E. Digital Student STAR seats, teacher support for assessments is provided in the print Blackline Masters component. This includes recording forms that can be customized for each student, as well as Summary and Tracking sheets to support progress monitoring throughout the level.