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The Foundation Scale K – Grade 6 Children

The following Foundation Scale was compiled by Cris Rowan, Occupational Therapist from a review of Canadian curriculum guidelines, relevant research literature, as well as discussion with resource teachers and occupational therapists. This approximate scale was designed as a guideline to assist parents and teachers in determining if their children are meeting grade level expectations, and therefore should not be interpreted as accurate or predictive. These skills should be achieved by the end of the relevant grade.

Grade	Age	Printing	Spelling	Reading	Attention
Pre-K	4-5 years	strokes, shapes, simple drawings; writes own name	spells own name	recognizes own name	5 minutes sustained on required task
K	5-6	some letters, some directional sense (left/right, up/down); 8.5 letters per minute in a copy task	spells words of 1-3 letters	recognizes some 3 letter words	6 minutes; inhibition of impulse control matures
1	6-7	upper and lower case letters, numbers; 18.9 letters per minute	spells words up to 5 letters	oral reads ~ 12 words per minute	7 minutes
2	7-8	letters on the line, accurate spacing, no reversals; 33.9 letters per minute	spells words up to 6-7 letters	oral reads ~ 25 words per minute	8 minutes
3	8-9	legible printing; starts cursive; 47.3 letters per minute	spells words up to 7-8 letters	silent reads ~ 50 words per minute	15 minutes
4	9-10	63.2 letters per minute	spells words up to 8-9 letters	silent reads ~ 75 words per minute	20 minutes; focused attention matures
5	10-11	72.7 letters per minute	spells words up to 9-10 letters	silent reads ~ 100 words per minute	25 minutes
6	11-12	84.7 letters per minute	spells multi-syllabic words	silent reads ~ 150 words per minute	30 minutes
7	12-13	99.9 letters per minute	spells more advanced multi-syllabic words	silent reads ~ 300 words per minute (~ 1/3 page)	45 minutes

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