
Sample Reading and Writing Interview for Emerging Literacy Learners

Name: _____

Age: _____

Date: _____

Instructions: Change the wording of any of the questions and/or add prompts in order to ensure each child understands what is being asked. Omit any questions that you know do not apply to the child being interviewed.

Begin the interview by saying something encouraging such as, *“I know you have good ideas and today I’d like to hear your ideas about reading and writing. Let’s start by talking about reading.”*

1. Who do you know that can read? Tell me about some of the children and adults that you have seen reading (OR that you know can read).

2. Can you read?
 - a) If the child says “Yes”, ask “Are you a good reader? What kinds of things do you do that make you a good reader?”

 - b) If the child says “No”, ask “Are you learning to read?” If child says “No”, ask “When do you think you will be able to read?”

3. How do people learn to read? Tell me your ideas about how people learn to read.

4. Who helps you learn to read? How do they help? Do you help anyone else to read? What do you do to help others?

5. Do you like to read? Why? OR Do you want to learn to read? Why?

6. Who do you know that can write? Tell me about the children and adults whom you know that can write.

7. Can you write?
 - a) If the child says “Yes”, ask “Are you a good writer? What makes you a good writer? How do you think of things/topics to write about? What do you do if you can’t think of anything to write about?”

 - b) If the child says “No”, ask “Are you learning to write?” If the child says “No”, ask “When do you think you will learn to write?”

8. Who helps you learn to write? Do you help anyone else with his/her writing? How do you help?

9. Do you like to write? Why? OR Do you want to learn to write? Why?