

## Spring First-Grade Spalding Teacher Observation Summary, 08

This spring checklist is intended to help classroom or home educators analyze their instruction to determine if they consistently implement the actions listed in the Checklist and the Teacher's Guide. Behaviors that reflect the Spalding philosophy are listed first because they are the foundation of *The Method*. Spring observations of experienced teachers have identified actions that frequently need refinement. In this four-quarter checklist, the percentages of behaviors observed are included. If percentages of satisfactory behaviors dropped below 80%, the objective is highlighted and a recommendation is included. Send questions to our Spalding Forum.

SPALDING COMPONENT	Observation			
	S	NR	NO	Recommendations
<b>Philosophy</b>				
<b>Does the teacher ...</b>				
<b>1. Make children's physical and mental well-being a primary concern?</b>				
• Ensure that children's feet rest comfortably on the floor.	100%	0%	0%	
• Ensure that children's arms rest comfortably on the desk.	100%	0%	0%	
• Have all children face the front for whole group instruction.	100%	0%	0%	
• Maintain a well-organized classroom.	90%	10%	0%	
• Praise children for good performance.	98%	2%	0%	
• Demonstrate a positive feeling tone.	92%	8%	0%	
<b>2. Have high expectations for children of differing ability levels?</b>	77%	13%	10%	Move to 5 mental actions by this time.
<b>3. Consistently encourage higher-level thinking by all children?</b>				
• "In the word <i>began</i> , why does the <i>e</i> say /e/? (spelling example)	88%	6%	6%	
• "Why does each sentence need a noun and a verb?" ( writing example)	67%	14%	19%	Continue higher-level thinking all year.
• "What is the difference between narrative and informative writing?" ( read	88%	2%	10%	
<b>4. Provide direct, sequential instruction?</b>				
• Use the Collins Model to model, check understanding, coach, scaffold/fade.	79%	13%	8%	
• Follow the sequence in the First-Grade Teachers' Guide.	88%	12%	0%	
<b>5. Consistently provide multisensory instruction?</b>				
• Have children see, say, write, and read phonograms, words, etc. (spelling ex	100%	0%	0%	
• Have children compose oral/written sentences and read their own. (writing e	90%	6%	4%	
<b>6. Encourage active participation by all children in each lesson?</b>				
• Have children say phonogram sounds in unison? (spelling example)	98%	2%	0%	
• Have children read decodable books in unison? (reading example)	62%	0%	38%	Ensure time for oral reading every day.
<b>7. Demonstrate diagnostic teaching?</b>				
• During OPR, stop to correct mispronunciations. (spelling example)	88%	8%	4%	
• Identify handwriting needs from WPR. (writing example)	85%	8%	6%	
• Rephrase or reteach following inappropriate student responses. (all subjects)	88%	10%	2%	
<b>8. Demonstrate integrated language arts instruction?</b>				
• Use spelling words to teach pronunciation, rules, grammar, and reading.	90%	8%	2%	
<b>Demonstrate the connection between spelling, writing, and reading</b>				
• lesson objectives.	69%	21%	10%	Make connections among language arts.

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<b>Spelling: Phonemic Awareness, Phonograms with Handwriting, Dictation</b>				
<b>Does the teacher ...</b>				
<b>1. Provide daily Oral Phonogram Reviews ?</b>				
<i>Step 1 (Delivering 10-11, 13, WRTR 39) :</i>				
• Use maximum 30 cards at one time.	96%	0%	4%	
• Pass cards back to front, showing only one card at a time.	96%	0%	4%	
• Listen for precise pronunciation of sound(s) <i>only</i> , e.g., /b/, not cue	81%	15%	4%	
• <b>Cover card if mispronounced, then pronounce precisely, e.g., /b/ (not</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>Cover card so children listen to sounds.</b>
• Have children repeat sound(s) precisely.	88%	8%	4%	
<i>Step 2 (Delivering 10-11, 13, WRTR 39):</i>				
• Use maximum 30 cards at one time.	96%	0%	4%	
• Show phonograms a second time.	96%	0%	4%	
• <b>Listen for precise pronunciation of <i>only</i> sounds in unison.</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>Children do <i>not</i> repeat cue words.</b>
• Ask questions that clarify which pronunciation or phonogram to use?	96%	0%	4%	
• Have children respond and explain.	94%	2%	4%	
<b>2. Provide daily Written Phonogram Reviews ? (Delivering 14-17, WRTR 41-42)</b>				
Coach children's accurate and legible handwriting. Set handwriting focus				
• for each WPR, e.g., "Today focus on beginning clock letters at 2 on	83%	11%	6%	
• Use maximum 30 cards at one time.	98%	0%	2%	
• Pronounce phonograms precisely.	92%	8%	0%	
• Require children to say sounds in unison. (no teacher voice overs)	92%	8%	0%	
• Give cues as needed.	96%	2%	2%	
• <b>Require children to say sounds softly as they write. (no teacher voice overs)</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>Teachers <i>listen</i> for accurate sounds.</b>
• Give delayed feedback, e.g., write each phonogram from children's dictation	86%	10%	4%	
• Have children evaluate their handwriting based on the day's focus.	83%	11%	6%	

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<b>3. Follow daily spelling dictation procedure? (<i>Delivering 25, WRTR 49</i>)</b>				
• Say word in normal speech.	100%	0%	0%	
• Give sentence for each word.	92%	8%	0%	
• Use fingers for <i>all</i> sounds (two hands for multisyllable words).	92%	6%	2%	
• <b>Have children say sounds in unison, then sound and write the word.</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>Children sound as they write.</b>
• Have children dictate word to teacher. (no teacher voice overs)	92%	8%	0%	
• Write word on board.	100%	0%	0%	
• <b>Have children dictate markings, then read word. (no teacher voice overs)</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>Children read <i>whole</i> word.</b>
• Have children give rule when appropriate. (no teacher voice overs)	90%	10%	0%	
• Have children <i>read for spelling</i> . (no teacher voice overs)	98%	0%	2%	
• Have children <i>read for reading</i> . (no teacher voice overs)	90%	6%	2%	
<b>Writing: <i>Sentence Construction</i></b>				
<b>Does the teacher ...</b>				
<b>1. Model composing oral/written sentences that demonstrate usage and meaning of week's <i>unfamiliar</i> EA words? (Writing Objective #1)</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>Teacher model meaningful sentences.</b>
2. Coach as children compose oral/written sentences that demonstrate usage and meaning of week's EA words?	85%	15%	0%	
3. Model one additional writing objective in the <i>Teachers' Guide</i> ?	81%	15%	4%	
<b>4. Coach as children perform the task?</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>Teacher provide prompts for children.</b>
<b>Reading: <i>Literary Appreciation, Text Structure</i></b>				
<b>Does the teacher ...</b>				
<b>1. Coach as children identify and label three mental actions in a McCall-Harby/Crabbs, literature, science, or social studies selection read aloud?</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>Children label mental actions.</b>
2. Coach as children read a decodable book in unison.	73%	0%	27%	Children read aloud everyday.

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