

Handwriting Legibility Scale (HLS)
Barnett, A.L, Prunty, M. & Rosenblum, S. (2017)

Name/ID of writer: _____ Male / Female. Age: _____

Name of assessor: _____ Date: _____

Profession: _____

Number of years of experience working with children in this capacity: _____

Learning to produce legible handwriting at sufficient speed allows children to keep up with class work and demonstrate their knowledge. However some children struggle to learn this skill and it is important to identify those with difficulties.

The purpose of this scale is to obtain your **overall impression** of the quality of the **written product** (not the content of the writing), to establish the extent to which the handwriting allows for effective communication. The scale provides an overall evaluation **to identify** those with difficulties in producing legible and/or sufficiently fast handwriting. Please note that if a difficulty is identified, then a more detailed analysis of the handwriting may be required in order to plan how best to support the child to develop their skill.

The scale is designed for children aged 9 years and older. It contains five components, each of which should be rated on a five-point scale (1-5), with higher scores indicating poorer performance. Compute the total score by summing the five component scores.

The assessment should be based on a piece of 'free writing' produced by the child, ideally on an A4 sized sheet of lined paper. The text should be approximately 10 lines in length.

The focus of this scale is on **legibility** of the handwriting. However, since speed is also an important element you should also time the writing task. Start to time when the child begins to write and mark their text after six minutes. This will give you a record of the child's rate of production, useful for comparing against other children of the same age and for monitoring performance over time.

Sometimes legibility is affected by spelling errors. You should therefore indicate below whether or not the child has made spelling errors in the text.

Legibility

Sum score (from over page): _____

Speed

Number of words produced in 6 minutes: _____

[Include all abbreviations, unfinished and crossed out words]

Spelling

Did the child have many spelling errors in the text compared to other children in the class? Yes / No

