

## **A Starting Point for Success ( Slosson Oral Reading Test)**

There are many tests available to determine a grade equivalent, level of comprehension (oral and silent reading), alphabet recognition, word recognition, writing vocabulary, concepts about print, etc. I have used: An Observation Survey, Ekwall Shanker Reading Inventory, QRI, and others. For adult literacy, we need a test to determine an appropriate grade equivalent in order to choose appropriate texts and materials. It helps to tell the librarian or tutor trainer that you are looking for books on a fifth grade level if that is where your student belongs. Nothing will be learned in texts that are much too hard for a student. The test I like to administer to determine a grade equivalent is the Slosson Oral Reading Test.

The Slosson for me is like a five iron in golf. I can always count on that one club to help me out, to keep me on the right track. The same is true of the Slosson; I can count on that test to give me the information I need. Best of all, the Slosson is easy to administer.

The student reads words from lists (first grade through high school) as you keep score on an answer sheet. There are twenty words on each list. The student keeps going until he/she reaches a list where he/she is unable to read even one word. Count the total number of words he/she was able to read properly, then match that number to its grade equivalent. For example a score of 80 matches to a grade equivalent of 3.0 (third grade reading level).

In the New Teacher Training Handbook, Susan T. Holt writes, “ Accurate assessment is an increasingly important part off what we do in adult education. “ With the proper grade equivalent, you can seek out books and materials that are appropriate. Your student will have a starting place for success and that is why the Slosson Oral Reading Test is such an important tool.

### Works Cited:

1. Holt, Susan T. New Teacher Training Handbook. Richmond: Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center, 2005.

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