

## Finding Three Levels

Altogether, you will determine levels for each child’s independent and instructional level and a recommended placement level. Remember that the instructional level is the *highest* level before the hard level. Figures 3.2a and 3.2b provide a quick summary of the criteria for independent-level and instructional-level identification.

**Finding the Benchmark Independent Level** To determine this level, look first at the accuracy and comprehension scores you already recorded on the Assessment Summary Form. Check the independent column next to the highest level at which a student at levels A–K can read 95–100% of the words accurately with excellent or satisfactory comprehension. At levels L–N, check the independent column next to the highest level at which a student can read 98–100% of the words accurately with excellent or satisfactory comprehension.

**Finding the Benchmark Instructional Level** To determine this level, once again look at the accuracy and comprehension scores you recorded on the

Assessment Summary Form. Check the instructional column next to the highest level at which a student at levels A–K can read 90–94% of the words accurately with excellent or satisfactory comprehension or 95–100% of the words accurately with limited comprehension. At levels L–N, check the instructional column next to the highest level at which a student can read 95–97% of the words accurately with excellent or satisfactory comprehension or 98–100% of the words accurately with limited comprehension.

**Finding the Recommended Placement Level** Finding the recommended placement level requires considering and interpreting accuracy and comprehension scores as well as looking across the rich range of information you gain from a benchmark assessment.

In fact, no matter what the assessment shows, it *always* requires qualitative judgment on the part of the teacher. When you finish the assessment for an individual, you have an important set of numbers: (1) a percentage of words read accurately and (2) a

Finding the Three Levels, A–K				
Benchmark Criteria for Levels A–K	Comprehension			
	Excellent 6–7	Satisfactory 5	Limited 4	Unsatisfactory 0–3
95–100%	Independent	Independent	Instructional	Hard
90–94%	Instructional	Instructional	Hard	Hard
Below 90%	Hard	Hard	Hard	Hard

FIGURE 3.2a Finding the three levels, A–K

Finding the Three Levels, L–N				
Benchmark Criteria for Levels L–N	Comprehension			
	Excellent 9–10	Satisfactory 7–8	Limited 5–6	Unsatisfactory 0–4
98–100%	Independent	Independent	Instructional	Hard
95–97%	Instructional	Instructional	Hard	Hard
Below 95%	Hard	Hard	Hard	Hard

FIGURE 3.2b Finding the three levels, L–N