MPLa & assessment of decoding

GAML 6 December 2023
Minor changes to the definition of decoding:

Current wording is unnecessarily restrictive of ways decoding might be assessed

Changes give more flexibility
GPF Precision construct can be assessed in other ways than oral fluency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Constructs</th>
<th>Sub-constructs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decoding</td>
<td><strong>D1 Precision</strong></td>
<td>D1.1 Identify symbol-sound/finger spelling and/or symbol-morpheme correspondences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>D1.2 Decode isolated words</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>D2 Fluency</strong></td>
<td>D2.1 Say or sign a grade-level continuous text at a pace and with accuracy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Select the letter that completes this word.  

ook

Select the word I say.

(student hears ‘table’)

tree  table  tap  tablet

s  v  b  m

〇 〇 〇 〇 〇
Expanded statement

In a short simple text of one or two sentences, students *read aloud* most words – including some unfamiliar words – accurately but slowly and often word by word.

Proposed revision

In a short simple text of one or two sentences, students *decode* most words – including some unfamiliar words.
Domains, constructs and descriptors
Proposed revision – add red text

In a short and simple connected text of one or two sentences, decode most words, including some unfamiliar words with familiar sound–symbol patterns (applies to alphabetic and alpha-syllabic languages only). Decoding skills can be demonstrated in a variety of ways, including through oral fluency.
Decoding Fluency is not essential for alignment

**Strongly aligned** – no Decoding required

**Additionally aligned** – can be met with 1 or 2 Precision sub-constructs + Reading
10 Decoding & 5 Reading score points
3 of 5 sub-constructs must be covered (Decoding has 3, Reading 2)

**Minimally aligned** – can be met with 0, 1 or 2 Precision sub-constructs + CASL
10 Decoding & 5 Comprehension of Aural and Signed Language (CASL) score points
4 out of 7 sub-constructs (Decoding has 3, CASL had 4)

*Alignment criteria from: Policy Linking for Measuring Global Outcomes Toolkit (Jan 2023)*
Reliable large-scale assessments of fluency may not be feasible

Reading with comprehension implies fluency

Fluency measures can hide comprehension problems in multi-lingual contexts