Dynamic Assessment


Dynamic assessment is a testing approach that focuses on how well a student can learn something new as opposed to what a student currently knows. It combines features of single timepoint or “static” assessment and multiple timepoint assessment to predict reading problems, as seen in the diagram below.

Benefits of a Dynamic Assessment (DA) of Decoding

**Accurate Prediction**
Peterson et al. found the DA of decoding in kindergarten predicted reading problems in 2nd through 5th grade more accurately than static tests.

**Early Identification**
DA can be used to screen incoming students as early as kindergarten because it does not measure prior knowledge, but the ability to learn.

**Bias Reduction**
Peterson et al. found that static tests disproportionately overidentified Hispanic students’ reading risk, while DA mitigated this bias.

**Efficiency**
The DA used by Peterson et al. took approximately 3 minutes per student to administer.