



## **Assessing Literacy Aquisition in Early Grades**

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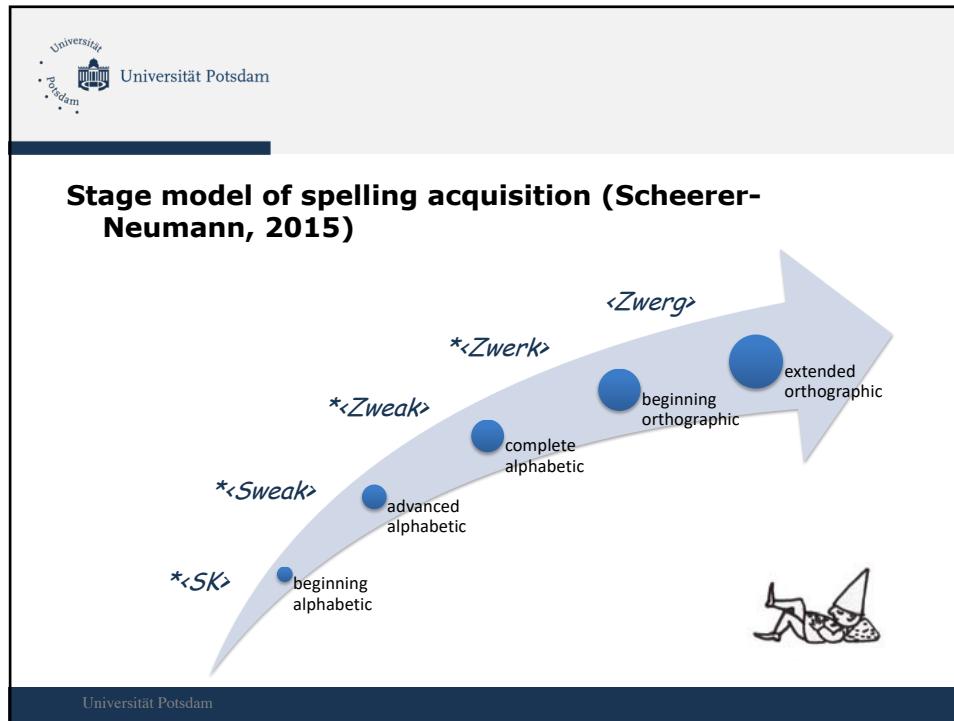
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## **Contents**

- Literacy acquisition in spelling (focus) and reading
  - Stage model: construct spellings and readings by means of strategies (indirect route)
  - Sensitive tasks (word level)
  - Empiric results

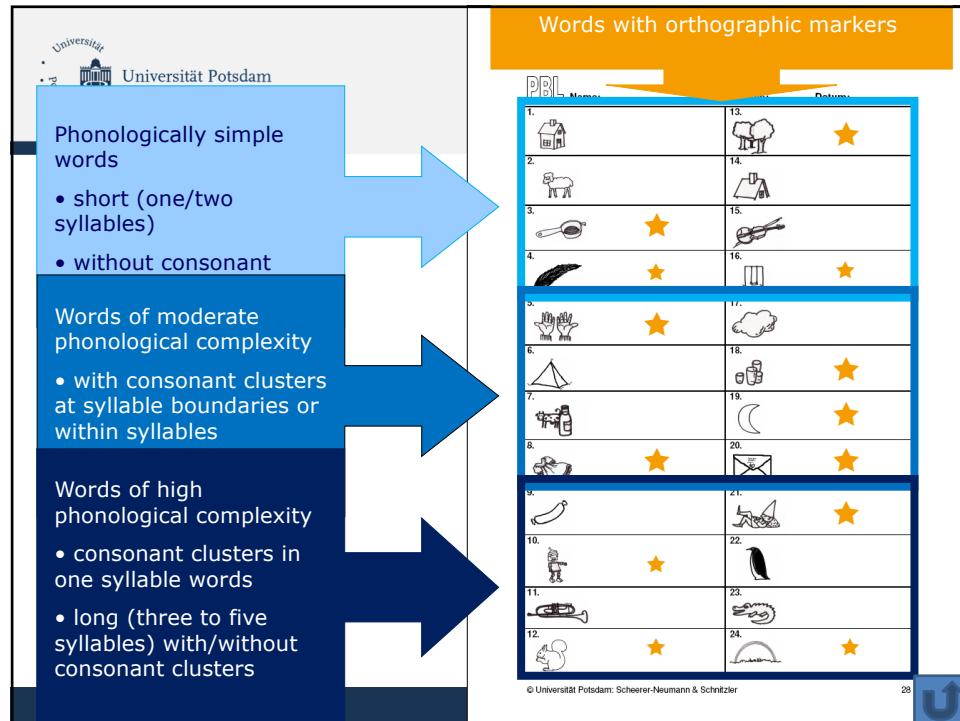
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The assessment tool section includes the Potsdam Picture List (PBL). The left column contains the following information:

- Universität Potsdam logo
- Universität Potsdam text
- Assessment Tool**
- Potsdam Picture List
  - Beginning of 2nd grade
  - Picture dictation, 24 words
    - Phonological complexity
    - + orthographic elements
  - Wordwise classification in categories:
    - Orthographically correct (+),
    - Completely phonologically plausible (2c),
    - Slightly deviant from phonological plausibility (2b),
    - Severely deviant from phonological plausibility (2a)

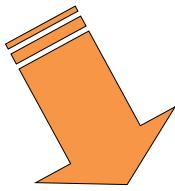
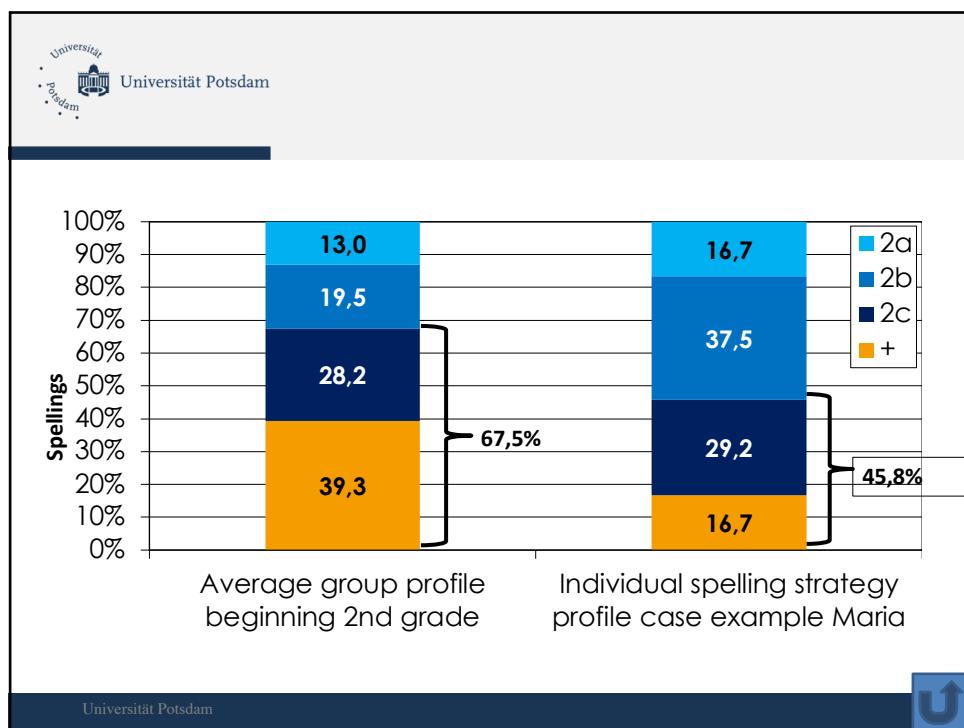
The right column contains a grid for the PBL, labeled "PBL Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Klasse: \_\_\_\_\_ Datum: \_\_\_\_\_". The grid has 24 numbered slots, each containing a small black-and-white line drawing of an object or scene. The objects include a house, a sheep, a spoon, a feather, hands, a triangle, a bottle, a hand, a banana, a person, a trumpet, a mouse, a tree, a house, a pair of scissors, a cloud, a cup, a crescent moon, an envelope, a star, a boat, a penguin, a lizard, and a rainbow.



Stages within the alphabetic strategy		Classification criteria	Examples
2a	beginning	consonantal spellings or deviation from phonologically plausible spellings in more than one (in two highly complex words two) grapheme(s)	*<H_s> (Haus) *<Z_er> (Zwerg) *<G_ok_dil> (Krokodil)
2b	advanced	deviation from phonologically plausible spelling in one (in two highly complex words two) grapheme	*<Me_lch> (Milch) *<Keige> (Geige) *<Grok_dil> (Krokodil)
2c	complete	phonologically plausible but orthographically incorrect spellings	*<Mont> (Mond) *<Hende> (Hände) *<Krokodie_l> (Krokodil)

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+ 1.	Haus	13. Beume	2c
+ 2.	Schaf	14. Dar	2b
2c 3.	Siep	15. Geige	2c
+ 4.	Feder	16. Schatkel	2b
2c 5.	Hende	17. Wolke	+
2b 6.	Seld	18. Geser	2b
2a 7.	Mildsch	19. mont	2c 4 x + (17 %)
2b 8.	Gleid	20. Bif	2c 7 x 2c (29 %)
2b 9.	worst	21. Sferk	2a 9 x 2b (38%)
2b 10.	Robter	22. Pingoин	2b 4 x 2a (17%)
2a 11.	Tombete	23. kokdil	2b
2a 12.	Eischonschen	24. Regenboзen	2c

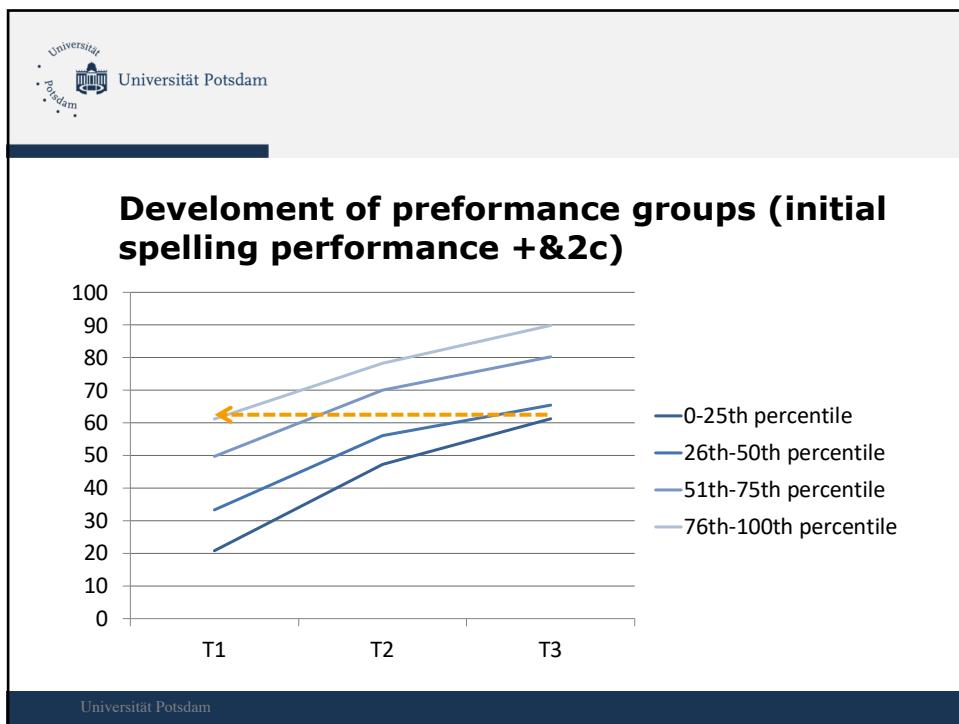
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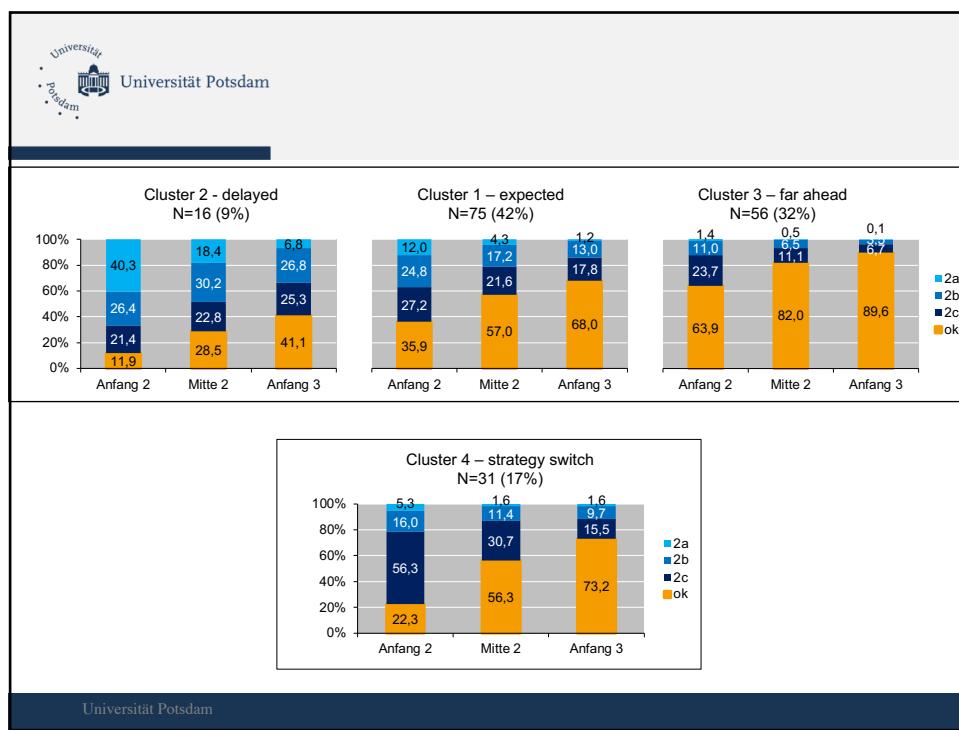
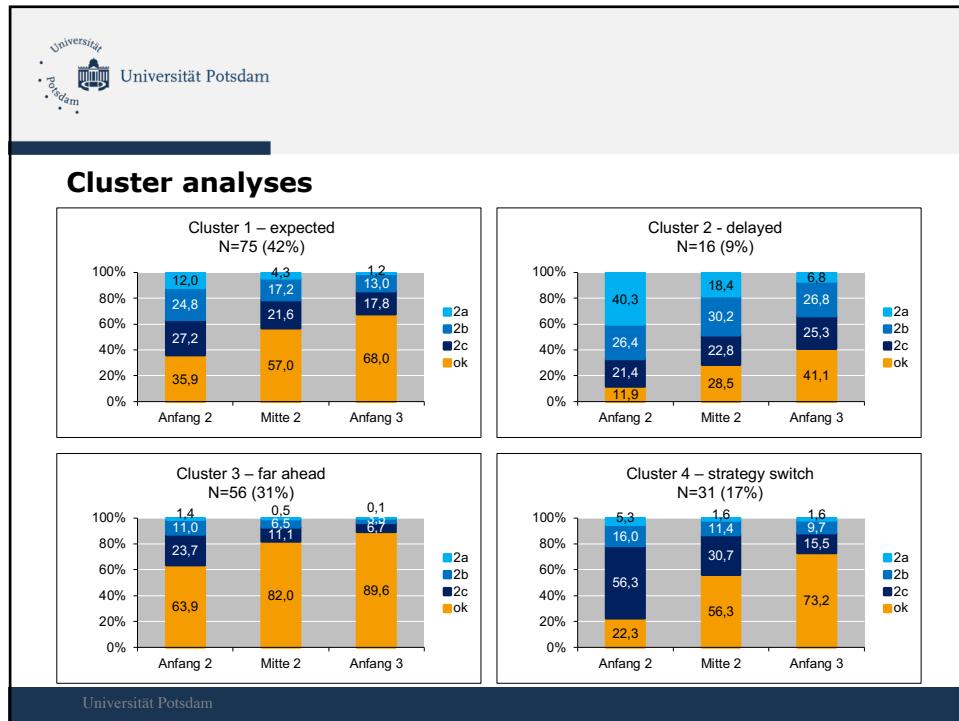
### Longitudinal study in Brandenburg during 2nd grade

- Complete data sets of children (N = 178): beginning 2nd grade => middle of 2nd grade => beginning of 3rd grade

Gender	86 male (48 %)	92 female (52 %)
Language	169 German (96 %)	8 other (4 %)

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### Summary and conclusions: spelling assessment

- Subgroups during 2nd grade with different spelling profiles
- Sufficient indicator for the identification of children with spelling difficulties: proportion of orthographically correct spellings at the beginning of 2nd grade
- Additional consideration of phonologically plausible spellings: good prognosis if considerably high
- Analyses of phonologically implausible spellings: implications for intervention (PA, PGC)

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### Stage model of reading acquisition (Scheerer-Neumann, 2015)

The diagram illustrates the Stage model of reading acquisition as a spiral path. The spiral starts at the bottom left with the label *\*/t.R:-tre:-tre:pe:-te:R.pe/*. It then moves clockwise through several stages:

- beginning recoding (alphabetic)*
- consequent recoding (alphabetic)*
- /tre:.pe:-tre:pə-trepə/*
- /trɛ.pə/*
- beginning orthographic*
- /trepə/*

The spiral ends at the top right with the label *advanced orthographic*. A large blue arrow points upwards and to the right, indicating the progression. To the right of the spiral, there is a white rectangular box containing the word **Treppe**.

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### Assessment Tool

- Potsdam Word Stairs
  - Beginning of 2nd grade
  - 11 item sections (66 real words, 36 pseudowords)
    - Phonological complexity
    - Frequency, lexicality
    - + morphological complexity
  - Graded wordwise scoring:
    - Spontaneously correct reading: 2 Points
    - Self correction/elaboration/repetition, wrong vowel length: 1 Point
    - Reading error: 0 Points

1 im, am, und, in, er, an,  
wir, ist, ein, es, eine, ins

2 a) Hut, Reis, Baum, Tal, Fisch, rot,  
b) Kino, Rose, Besen, Leiter, Rabe, Igel

3 Melone, Rosine, Banane,  
Roboter, Lokomotive, Telefon

4 a) sot, Lisch, Feis, Taum, Pal, Dut,  
b) Fose, Gesen, Kabe, Pino, Ugel, Meiter

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### Sections

- Real words (RW), high frequent function words\*
- a) RW, 1 syllable (S), no consonant clusters (-CC)\*
- b) RW, 2 S, -CC\*
- RW, 3 S, -CC\*
- Pseudowords (PW) as in 2a)\*
- b) PW as in 2b)\*
- PW as in 3)\*
- a) RW, 1 S, +CC\*
- b) RW, 1-2 S, + orth. vowel length markers (+VLM)\*
- RW, 2 S, +CC\*
- a) PW as in 6 a)
- b) PW as in 6 b)
- PW as in 7
- RW, 3-4 S, +CC
- RW, 1-4 S, morphologically complex

\*Especially for children with low reading abilities at the beginning of 2nd grade.

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### Pilot study (N = 43)

	2nd grade (N = 13)	3rd grade (N = 16)	4th grade (N = 14)
Score (Min.-Max.)	6 - 198	131 - 202	144 – 202
Time (Min.-Max)	97-342	122 - 340	105 - 365

- Effects of frequency (function words > other), lexicality (RW > PW), complexity (1-2 S > 3-4 S, -CC > +CC)

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### Summary and conclusions on reading assessment

- Informal, criterion based assessment: More studies needed!
- Useful tool for children with low basic reading abilities (due to a formal screening): reading profiles (e.g. slow but accurate, slow/fast but inaccurate)

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**Further information  
and material  
(in German)**

Search the www for ILeA 2

Download:

- Lehrerheft Rechtschreiben 2 (ILeA-Bilderliste = PBL)
- Lehrerheft Lesen 2 (Einzellesenanalyse = PWS)

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**Thank you!**

  
Institut zur Qualitätsentwicklung  
im Bildungswesen



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