

FROM PRACTICE TO PROFICIENCY

Taking a running record may seem easy, but becoming proficient at it takes practice. After years of taking running records every day, we are still honing our skills. We regularly check on ourselves to make sure we are recording children's every action and behavior. If you are already comfortable with running records, one way to check yourself is to audio- or video-record a child's reading and use it to review your coding. When we do this, we are often amazed at the little things we miss. While this may seem tedious, accurately capturing a child's actions and behaviors provides important insights about his or her reading.

One of our favorite mantras is "practice leads to proficiency," so here's an opportunity for you to take a running record. When you're finished, check your work against the answer key at the end of the chapter.

Text	Student Says	Practice Recording
 <p>It is a rainy day.</p> <p>2</p>	<p>It is a r- rainy day.</p>	
 <p>I need my coat. Is it in the closet? "Yes, it is!" said Mom.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>I need a coat.</p> <p>Is it in the closet?</p> <p>in the closet?</p> <p>Yes, it is! said Mother.</p>	

Text	Student Says	Practice Recording
 <p>I need my hat. Is it on the shelf? "Yes, it is!" said Dad.</p> <p>4</p>	<p>I need my hat.</p> <p>Is it in the shelf?</p> <p>Is it on the shelf?</p> <p>Yes, it is! said D-ad, Dad.</p>	
 <p>I need my umbrella. Is it on the hook? "Yes, it is!" said Mom.</p> <p>5</p>	<p>I need my umbrella.</p> <p>Is it on the hook?</p> <p>Yes, it is! said Mother,</p> <p>Mom.</p>	
 <p>I need my boots. Are they by the door? "Yes, they are!" said Dad.</p> <p>6</p>	<p>I need my boots.</p> <p>Are they by the front door?</p> <p>Yes, they are! said Dad.</p>	

Text	Student Says	Practice Recording
 <p>"Now we can go outside," said Mom and Dad.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Now, now we can go,</p> <p>said Mom and Dad.</p>	
 <p>It is not a rainy day. It is a rainbow day!</p> <p>8</p>	<p>It is N-O-T, not a rainy day.</p> <p>It is a rainbow day!</p>	

An answer key is provided at the end of the chapter.

CLOSING THOUGHT

While it may not take the 10,000 hours that Malcolm Gladwell suggests in *Outliers*, practicing will improve your ability to take a running record in the classroom quickly and accurately. Therefore, in addition to the information in this chapter, we have also created a quick reference guide on standard coding to support you. See Appendix A, pages 232–234, and scholastic.com/ResourcesNSFRR. In our work with teachers, we have found that having this guide available when taking a running record answers many questions on the spot and builds proficiency.