



Handwriting Speed and Legibility Literature Review:

| Grade | Ayres | | Freeman | | Groff | | Ziviani | | Alley | |
|-------|-------|------|---------|------|-------|-----|---------|------|-------|-------|
| | ltr/m | wpm | ltr/m | wpm | ltr/m | wpm | ltr/m | wpm | ltr/m | wpm |
| 1 | N/A | | N/A | | N/A | | N/A | | 20-32 | 4-6.4 |
| 2 | N/A | | 30 | 6 | N/A | | N/A | | 20-35 | 4-7 |
| 3 | N/A | | 40 | 8 | N/A | | 32 | 6.4 | 25-45 | 5-9 |
| 4 | 55 | 11 | 50 | 10 | 35 | 7 | 34 | 6.8 | 35-55 | 7-11 |
| 5 | 64 | 12.8 | 60 | 12 | 40 | 8 | 38 | 7.6 | 40-65 | 8-13 |
| 6 | 71 | 14.2 | 67 | 13.4 | 49 | 9.8 | 46 | 9.2 | 45-70 | 9-14 |
| 7 | N/A | | 74 | 14.8 | N/A | | 52 | 10.4 | 60-75 | 12-15 |
| 8 | N/A | | 80 | | N/A | | N/A | | 70-90 | 14-18 |

Adapted from: Ziviani, J. (1984). Some elaborations on handwriting speed in 7- to 14-year-old. *Perceptual and Motor Skills*, 58, 535-539.

**All studies recorded speed in letters per minute (ltr/m) in OT literature; however in education literature speed is recorded in words per minute (wpm); in addition wpm appears to be more meaningful for parents/teachers than ltr/m. Using the standard that 5 characters equals one word, all ltr/m were converted to wpm and both numbers are listed in the table above.

Handwriting Speed and Legibility: A Pilot Study

Comparison of Handwriting Speed and Legibility

| Grade Level | Boys HW Speed | Girls HW Speed | Boys Legibility | Girls Legibility |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 5 th Grade (123) | 13.0 wpm | 15.2 wpm | 89% | 96% |
| 8 th Grade (94) | 19.1 wpm | 22.3 wpm | 88% | 97% |

Honaker, D. (2000). Handwriting and Keyboarding Legibility/Speed of 5th and 8th grade students, a pilot study. Unpublished manuscript.

Keyboarding Speeds: Texas Curriculum suggest the following table:

| Grade | Typing speed - word per minute |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 6 th | 9-14 |
| 7 th | 11-16 |
| 8 th | 13-18 |

Pilot Study: Comparison of Speed Averages

| Grade Level | Boys Typing Speed | Girls Typing Speed |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 5 th Grade | 8.5 wpm | 10.5 wpm |
| 8 th Grade | 17.7 wpm | 18.9 wpm |

Honaker, D. (1999). Handwriting and Keyboarding Legibility/Speed of 5th and 8th grade students, a pilot study. Unpublished manuscript.