



HANDWRITING SPEED AND LEGIBILITY LITERATURE REVIEW

GRADE	Ayers		Freeman		Groff		Ziviani		Alley	
	ltr/m	wpm	ltr/m	wpm	ltr/m	wpm	ltr/m	wpm	ltr/m	wpm
1									20-32	4 - 6.4
2			30	6					20-35	4 - 7
3			40	8			32	6.4	25-45	5 - 9
4	55	11	50	10	35	7	34	6.8	35-45	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			74	14.8			52	10.4	60-75	12 - 15
8			80						70-90	14 - 18

Adapted from: Ziviani, J. (1984). Some elaborations in handwriting speed in 7 -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
5th Grade (123)	13.0 wpm	15.2 wpm	89%	96%
8th 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 Unpublished manuscript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 suggests the Following Table

Grade	Typing Speed + Word per Minute
6th	9-14
7th	11-16
8th	13-18

PILOT STUDY

Comparison of Speed Averages

Grade	Boy's Typing Speed	Girl's Typing Speed
5th	8.5 wpm	10.5 wpm
8th	17.7 wpm	18.9 wpm

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