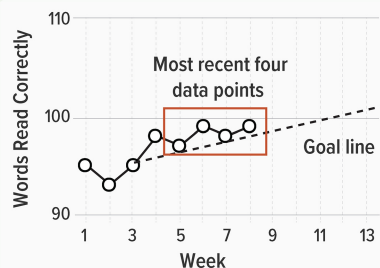


DECISION RULES for Analyzing Academic Progress Monitoring Data

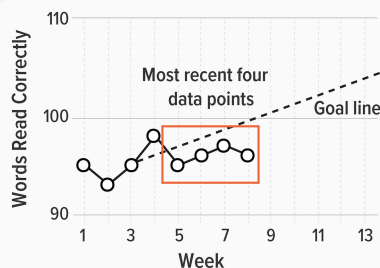
Although these are not the only methods you can use to analyze academic progress monitoring data, this handout describes three common options: (1) four-point analysis method, (2) trend line analysis method, and (3) median of the last three data points method.

1 Four-Point Analysis

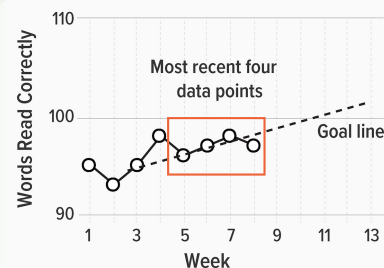
If at least **three weeks** of instruction have passed and **six data points** have been collected, examine the four most recent data points.



If all four points are above the goal line, increase the goal.



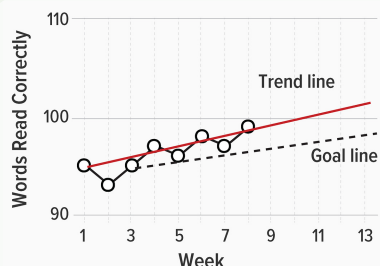
If all four points are below goal line, consider adapting the intervention.



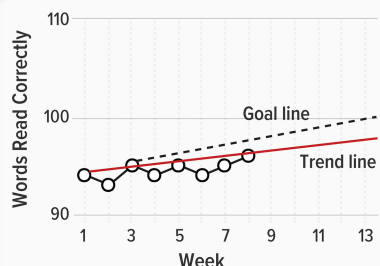
If the four data points are both above and below the goal line, continue collecting data and monitor progress.

2 Trend Line Analysis

If at least **four weeks** of instruction have passed and **eight data points** have been collected, determine the trend of current performance and compare it with the goal line.



If the student's trend line is steeper than the goal line, increase the goal.



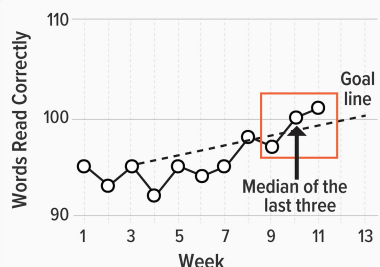
If the student's trend line is flatter than the goal line, consider adapting the intervention and assess fidelity.



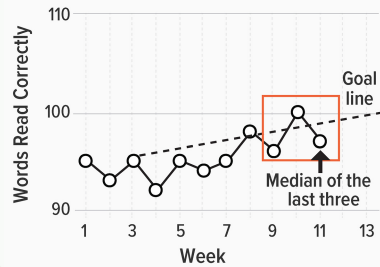
If the student's trend line and goal line are the same, keep collecting data and continue to monitor progress.

3 Median of Last Three Data Points

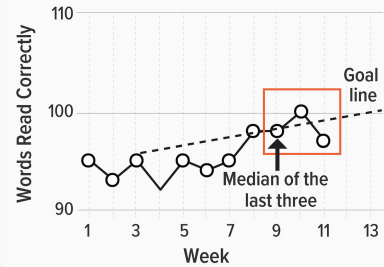
If at least **four weeks** of instruction have passed and **eight data points** have been collected, find the median of the three most recent data points and compare it with the goal line.



If the median of the last three is above the goal line, increase the goal.



If the median of the last three is below the goal line, consider adapting the intervention and assess fidelity.



If the median of the last three is right on the goal line, keep collecting data and continue to monitor progress.

1

Four-Point Analysis

Advantages

- Simple and quick method for determining progress.
- Easiest method to visually analyze on a graph.

Considerations

- Potentially not as accurate as Trend Line Analysis.
- Must have consecutive data points above or below the goal line to make a decision.
- Outliers or significant deviations in the last four data points can impact decisions.

Recommendation

- Use when there are limited outliers, and you do not have a system that calculates a trend line for you.

2

Trend Line Analysis

Advantages

- Highly accurate.
- Easy to use if you collect enough data, especially if you have a system that will calculate the trend line.

Considerations

- Must have a sufficient number of data points to establish a reliable trend.
- The slope of the trend line can be affected by outliers.
- Requires calculation.
- Ensure that data collection is systematic and frequent enough to detect meaningful trends.

Recommendation

- Use if you have a system that calculates a trend line for you.

3

Median of Last Three Data Points

Advantages

- Simple and quick to analyze.
- Reduces the impact of extreme values and outliers on analysis.
- Allows for timely instructional adjustments based on recent performance.
- Need less data to make adjustments.

Considerations

- The median value may not fully capture trends if data points vary widely.
- May be more accurate with more weeks of data collection.
- Despite using only the last three data points to make a decision, there must have been at least four weeks of instruction or eight total data points.

Recommendation

- Use when you need a quick analysis that limits the influence of outliers.

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