Primary Spelling Inventory (PSI)

The Primary Spelling Inventory (PSI) is used in kindergarten through third grade. The 26 words are ordered by difficulty to sample features of the letter name–alphabetic to within word pattern stages. Call out enough words so that you have at least five or six misspelled words to analyze. For kindergarten or other emergent readers, you may only need to call out the first five words. In late kindergarten and early first grade classrooms, call out at least 15 words so that you sample digraphs and blends; use the entire list for late first, second, and third grades. If any students spell more than 20 words correctly, you may want to use the Elementary Spelling Inventory.

1. fan I could use a fan on a hot day. fan
2. pet I have a pet cat who likes to play. pet
3. dig He will dig a hole in the sand. dig
4. rob A raccoon will rob a bird’s nest for eggs. rob
5. hope I hope you will do well on this test. hope
6. wait You will need to wait for the letter. wait
7. gum I stepped on some bubble gum. gum
8. sled The dog sled was pulled by huskies. sled
9. stick I used a stick to poke in the hole. stick
10. shine He rubbed the coin to make it shine. shine
11. dream I had a funny dream last night. dream
12. blade The blade of the knife was very sharp. blade
13. coach The coach called the team off the field. coach
14. fright She was a fright in her Halloween costume. fright
15. chewed The dog chewed on the bone until it was gone. chewed
16. crawl You will get dirty if you crawl under the bed. crawl
17. wishes In fairy tales wishes often come true. wishes
18. thorn The thorn from the rosebush stuck me. thorn
19. shouted They shouted at the barking dog. shouted
20. spoil The food will spoil if it sits out too long. spoil
21. growl The dog will growl if you bother him. growl
22. third I was the third person in line. third
23. camped We camped down by the river last weekend. camped
24. tries He tries hard every day to finish his work. tries
25. clapping The audience was clapping after the program. clapping
26. riding They are riding their bikes to the park today. riding