

Magic Pencils - Reading by Writing

Jean Moore

“Magic Pencils” is an approach of combining research-based, successful reading strategies into a “how to” approach to teach elementary students to read. Developed by Jean Moore, a resource teacher who uses it on a one-to-one basis, the approach is both enjoyable and productive with individual students. Magic Pencils integrates the most effective aspects of Direct Instruction, Precision Teaching, brainstorming, dictation, phonics, whole language, planned writing and earned incentives. Students chart their own performances on the Standard Celeration Chart and visually evaluate their progress.

Students are given a mastery-based proficiency test to determine their baseline and as a diagnostic evaluation. After they have used the Magic Pencils program, they are given a posttest. The range of improvement in reading fluency is from 11 to 53% on the posttest. Average improvement in reading fluency measured by rate of words read per minute is 43 for first and second graders, 198 for third graders, 44.5 for 4th graders, and 54.5 for 5th graders.

The accompanying individual Charts indicate performance of two students’ reading from the Science Research Associates’ BRS Satellite cards. Chart 1 shows the performance of a six-year old first grade boy who reached 29 correct per minute with 3 errors on a passage with short “a” sounds and 50 correct per minute with 2 errors on a passage with short “i” sounds. An eight-year-old girl in the third grade is highlighted in Chart 2. On a see-say passage emphasizing short vowels, she reached 63 correct per minute with no errors; on one emphasizing rhyming words, she reached 72 correct per minute with 1 error. Magic Pencils really puts the fun back into the “fundamentals” of reading.

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30 DAY PRIMARY CHART

NUMBER

Correct Error

11-2	7	3
	21	4
	30	5
	24	2
	29	3
	25	5
	21	4
	29	3
	33	5
	34	3
	36	4
	46	4
2-13	50	2

0 - Correct
X - Error

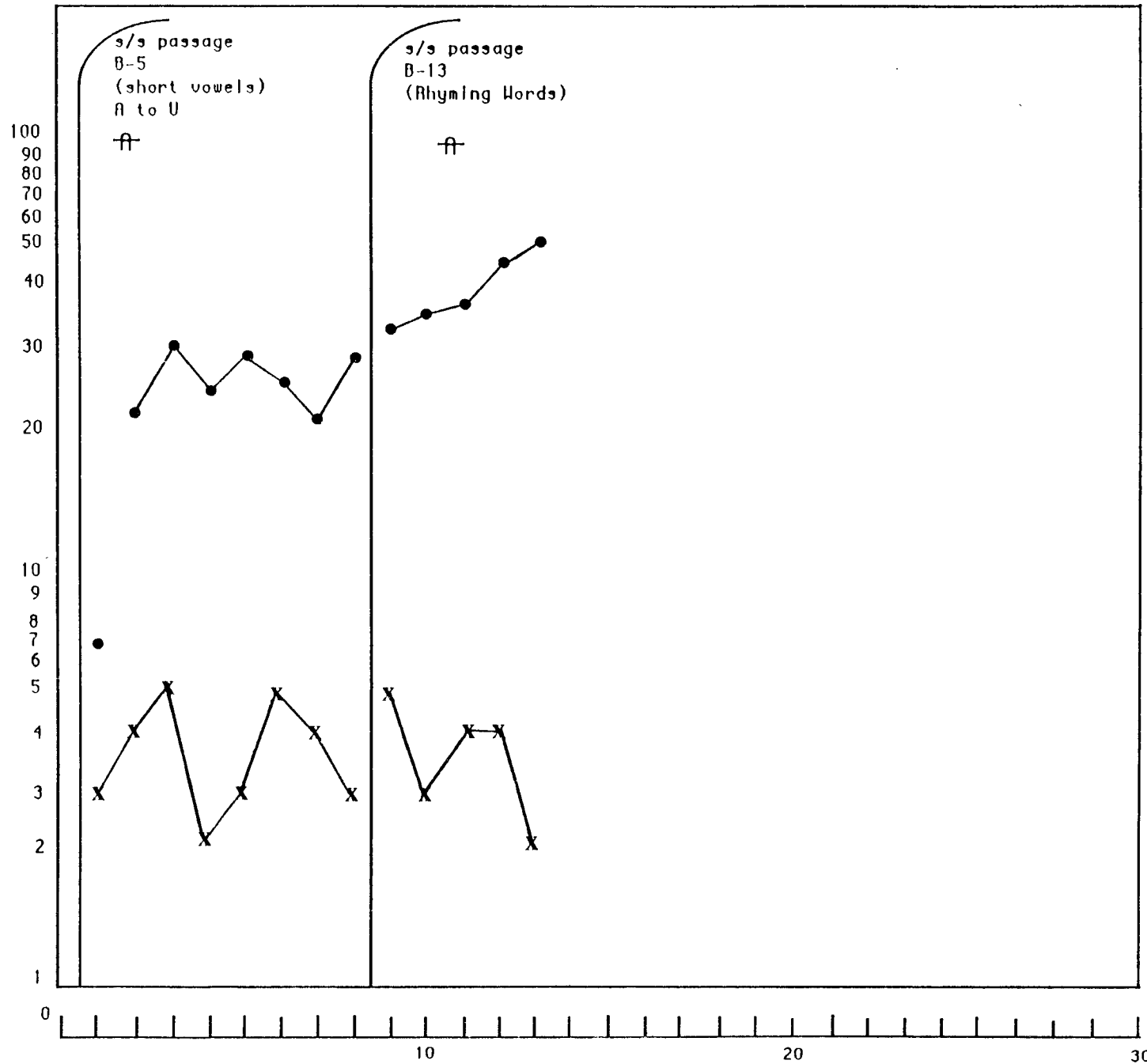


CHART 1

30 DAY PRIMARY CHART

NUMBER

Correct Error

	Correct	Error
11-25	24	2
12-3	30	3
12-6	37	5
12-10	50	3
1-2	53	4
1-6	59	2
1-8	58	2
1-14	61	0
1-28	63	0
2-3	43	2
2-4	51	2
2-5	61	0
2-6	71	2
2-11	63	2
2-13	72	1

0 - Correct
 X - Error

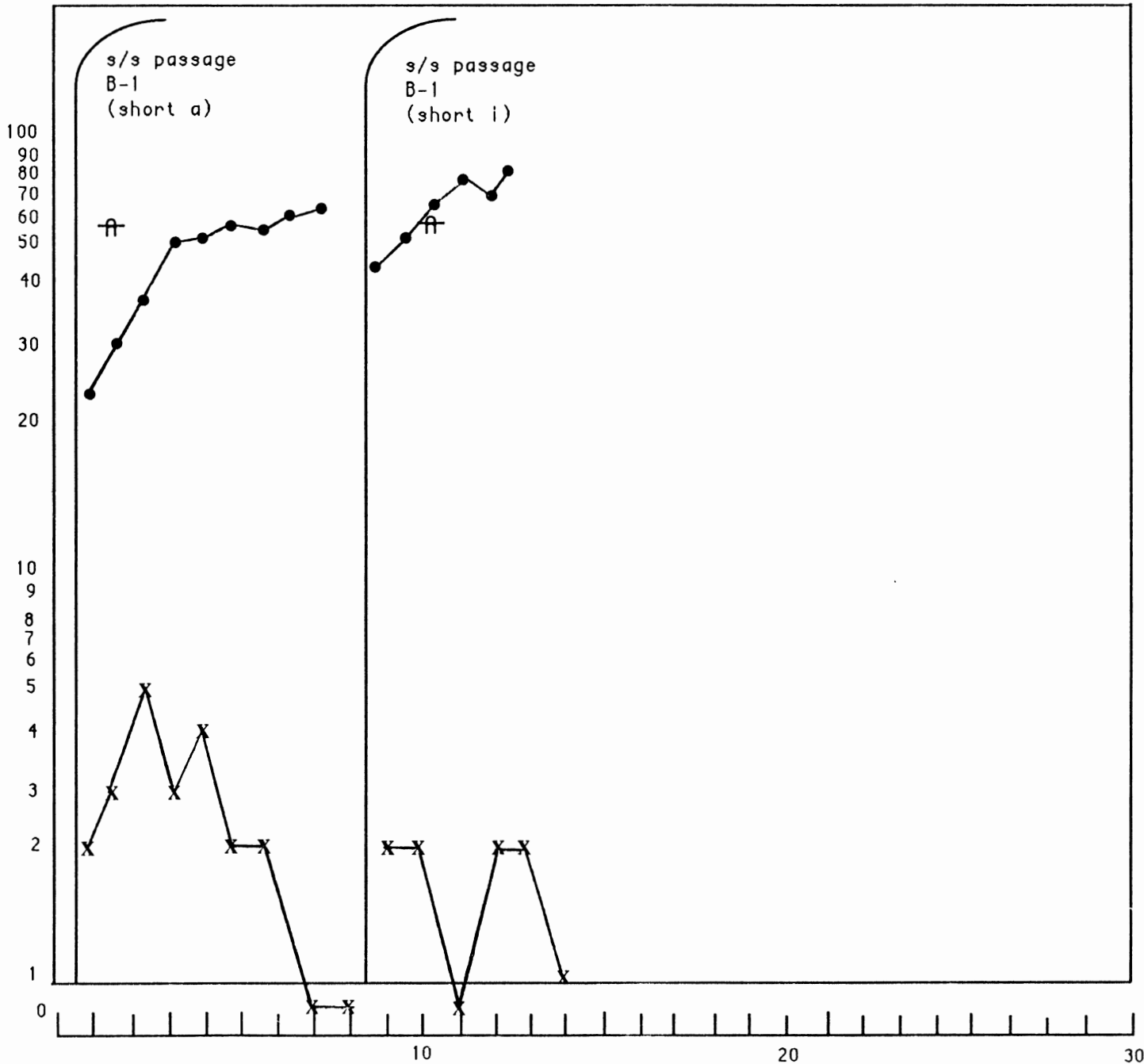


CHART 2