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Beyond DIBELS: Adding Comprehension Questions to a Fluency Based Reading Test

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Beyond DIBELS: Adding Comprehension Questions to a Fluency Based Reading Test

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Research Questions

- 1) How can I adapt the DIBELS test to be used as an accurate assessment of both fluency and reading comprehension
- 2) What instructional tools can be used to implement the addition of the reading comprehension component between DIBELS tests?

Methodology

- Compared pretest and posttest DIBELS scores from 25 fourth grade students of varying abilities
- Implemented the instructional tool *Six Minute Solutions* (6MS) between testing and added comprehension questions to instruction
- Collected data on the types of comprehension questions and analyzed strengths and weaknesses

Results: DIBELS scores

- **Pretest:** 4 – *at risk*, 3 – *some risk*, 18 – *low risk* (see Table 1)
- **Posttest:** 4 – *at risk*, 1 *some risk*, 20 *low risk* (see Table 1)
- Unclear as to what type of intervention necessary for *at risk* and *low risk* students

| Students | Beginning Scores | Risk Level | Middle Scores | Risk Level |
|----------|------------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| 1 | 37 | At | 60 | At |
| 2 | 40 | At | 67 | At |
| 3 | 43 | At | 63 | At |
| 4 | 60 | At | 74 | At |
| 5 | 80 | Some | 105 | Low |
| 6 | 87 | Some | 101 | Some |
| 7 | 91 | Some | 109 | Low |
| 8-25 | 102-176 | Low | 143-186 | Low |

Table 1: *Pretest and Posttest DIBELS Scores*

Results: Comprehension Qs

- **Strengths:** MC-1, TF, FB-1, SA-1
- **Weaknesses:** SA-1, FB-1, MC-3, FB-2
- MC-1 greatest strength but unclear as to why
- FB-1 & SA-1 both strength and weakness

Types of Comprehension Questions

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Multiple choice questions | |
| 1 answer | MC-1 |
| 3 answers (all of the above) | MC-3 |
| Short answer questions | |
| Multiple possible answers | SA-MPA |
| 1 possible answer | SA-1 |
| Fill in the Blank questions | |
| 1 word answer | FB-1 |
| 2 word answer | FB-2 |
| True or False questions | TF |

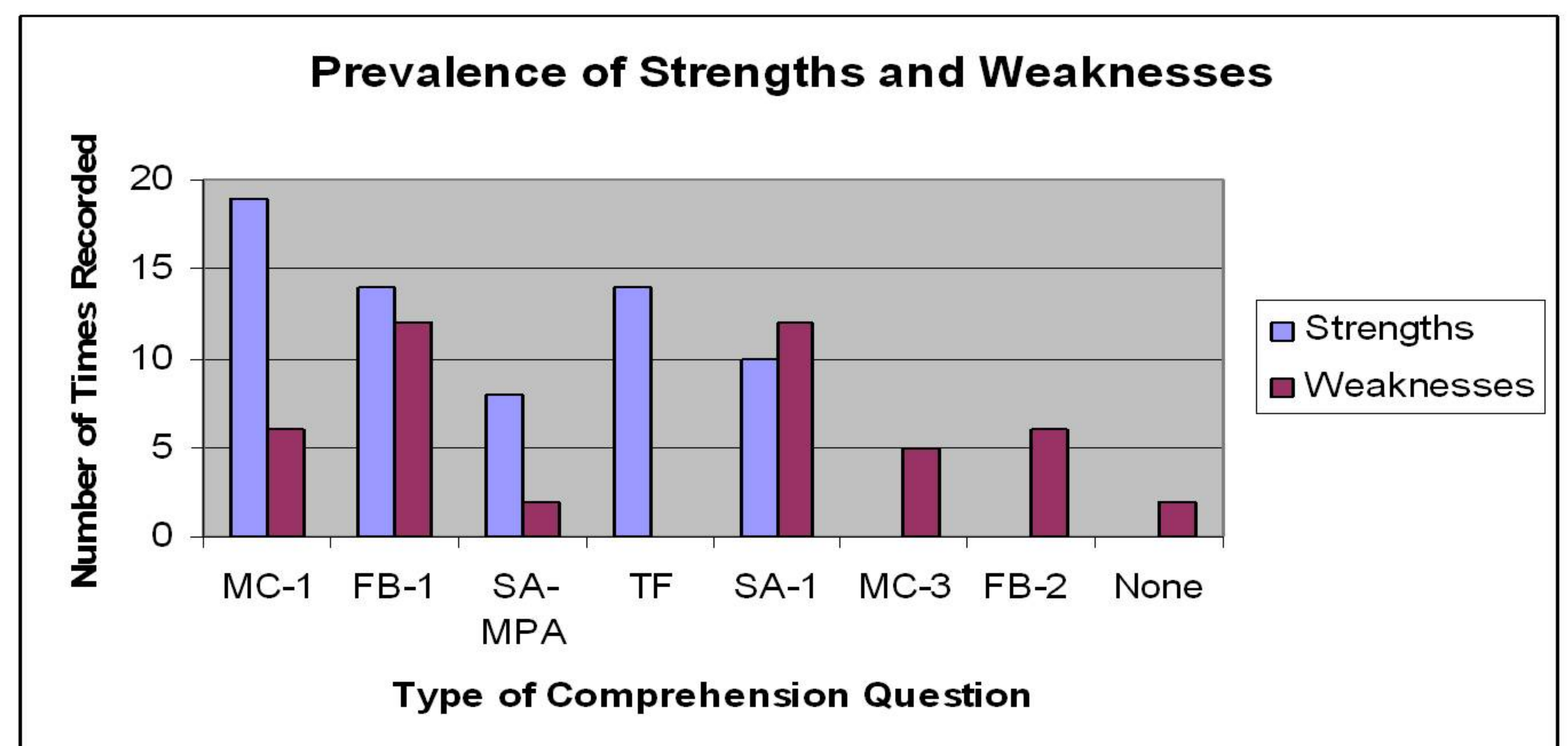


Table 2: *Prevalence of strengths and weaknesses of comprehension questions*

Conclusions

- DIBELS scores do not give insight as to what areas of reading instruction students need additional support in.
- Comprehension questions fill in the gaps as to what additional support is necessary for each student.
- More research should be done to determine whether or not MC-1 questions can be added to the DIBELS test to get a more accurate prediction of students' reading ability.