Description of Tasks: PALS-K

PALS-K is comprised of six required tasks and one optional task. The majority of the PALS-K screening is administered individually, but a few of the tasks can be given in small groups of five or fewer students. The tasks are:

- **Rhyme Awareness** - From three pictures, students are asked to identify a picture that rhymes with the target picture. There are a total of ten items for this task.

- **Beginning Sound Awareness** - From three pictures, students are asked to identify pictures that have the same beginning sound as the target picture. There are a total of ten items for this task.

- **Alphabet Knowledge** - Students are asked to name the 26 lower-case letters of the alphabet.

- **Letter Sounds** - Students are asked to produce the letter sounds of 23 upper-case letters of the alphabet, and three consonant digraphs (ch, sh, th).

- **Spelling** - Students spell five consonant-vowel-consonant words, receiving credit for phonetically acceptable substitutions.

- **Concept of Word** - Students are taught a rhyme in advance of assessing their concept of word. A students' concept of word is assessed using a picture sheet of the rhyme, as well as pointing and word identification in the context of a small book format and then in a word list.

- **Word Recognition in Isolation (Optional) -** Students identify a list of words at the Preprimer, Primer, and First-Grade level.