VAS is an abbreviation of the words **V**isual **A**ttention **S**pan.
A low VAS can lead to a delay in readiness for whole word processing.
A high VAS can lead to very early development of whole word processing capacity but can lead to guess-dependency.
Link to Lecture 3

The Guessing Age:
This is the age when VAS reaches VAS Level 3, the minimum VAS level for dependable whole word processing. **Link to Lecture 2**

The VAS Ceiling:
This predicts the age when VAS level reaches its peak. If the child is guess-dependent that can also indicate the word length that can be guessed. **Link to Lecture 2**

The VAS Code:
This is shorthand description of overall reading performance. For example a 9HVLP indicates a nine year old with High VAS and Low Phonics
Once you understand VAS, you can predict outcomes future and past.
Link to Lecture 4 VAS Analysing Database

Results:
This button will take the tester back to the actual questions asked during the testing, the responses given by the child and the tentative diagnoses being generated.

The VAS Grid:
This provides an overview of all the subskills:
The VAS Grid identifies at a glance where deficits exist, the colour-coding describes the depth of each problem and the initial and subsequent retests provide evidence of remedial success or failure. This can then form the basis for fact-based mentoring with more experienced colleagues and in preparing end-of-term reports and discussions with parents.

Research and remediation
Teachers use the VAS Grid to identify children's specific needs by sorting a complete class of students thus identifying specific children with similar problems.

Team work:
A) Inexperienced teachers can be mentored by the principal and/or by

experienced teachers.

B) Professional Development can draw on the experience of the entire staff and discuss specific problems and the best remedial resources. Subsequent PD can submit evidence of progress.

C) Principals can test a child applying to join the school and be able to detail the deficits that exist and what the school could do to address them.

D) Principals and Class Teachers will be able to impress and reassure aggressive parents of struggling children.

Predicting the future/understanding the past

The program automatically calculates The Guessing Age, the age when a child reaches Level 3 VAS, the age when whole word processing first becomes available. Teaching word guessing before the development of VAS Level 3 is the major cause of subsequent literacy problems including "The 4th year slump".

[Link to the VAS Ceiling lecture 2](#)

Remediation:

Teachers all have their own favoured remedial resources that address reading problems but many remedial resources are not carefully sequenced, don't provide sufficient practice, may not target critical deficits (inaccurate guessing, word reversals, bdp confusions, name sound confusions etc.), etc etc.

We recommend Jean Harrison's carefully sequenced and consolidated 7 book series "Phonics Unlimited" and her (currently free) remedial tool "Ease into Reading".

http://www.blake.com.au/Phonics-Unlimited-s/2365.htm

Retesting:

Any defects coloured yellow (Warning) or red (Danger) on the colour-coded VAS Grid should be addressed immediately and then retested in 3 to 4 months. Any defect that fails to improve within 6 months should be referred for a second opinion.