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| **Appendix 3.** Risk of bias assessment form. Ratings (a-d) and stars (\*) for each study are summarised in Table 2. |
| **Authors:** | **Date:** |
| **Reviewer:** | **Date:** |
| **Sample size (maximum 4 points/stars)** | Representativeness  | a) Representative of target population \*  |  |
| b) Somewhat representative of target population\* |  |
| c) Selected group of users |  |
| d) No description of the sampling strategy |  |
| Sample size | a) Justified and satisfactory (i.e., sample large enough to detect small effects with power .8) \*  |  |
| b) Not justified |  |
| Response rate | a) Response rate satisfactory (i.e. > 60%) \* |  |
| b) Response rate unsatisfactory (i.e., <60%) |  |
| c) No description of response rate  |  |
| Reading assessment | a) Standardized reading assessment with data reported \*\* |  |
| b) Standardised reading assessment with no data reported |  |
| **Group comparability (maximum 2 points/stars)** | Groups comparable based on the study design or analysis. Confounding factors controlled | a) English poor readers \* |  |
| b) Control for additional factors (attention, age, sex, SES, neurological or medical problem)\* |  |
| **Self-concept assessment (maximum 2 points/stars)** | Assessment of outcome | a) Normed index of self-concept \* |  |
| b) Questions presented and read out loud to the participants\* |  |
| Statistical analysis | a) Statistical test clearly described and appropriate\* |  |
| b) Statistical test is not appropriate, not described or incomplete |  |
| **Total:** |  |  |  |
| **Incomplete outcome data:** |
| **Selective reporting:** |
| **Other bias:** |