

Best Start Kindergarten Assessment

Information for schools FACTSHEET

What is the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment?

The Best Start Kindergarten Assessment is a free optional online diagnostic assessment available to Catholic Schools NSW with a Kindergarten student cohort. It focuses on some of the key literacy and numeracy skills students may demonstrate at the start of school.

Assessment window

The assessment is conducted one-to-one in students' first five weeks of Term 1.

Administering the assessment

The assessment has a literacy and numeracy component and is administered one on one with a student and teacher. Each component is designed to be completed in 20 minutes. Each component should be conducted separately.

Assessment resources

The Best Start Kindergarten Assessment folder contains assessment questions and resources required to administer the assessment. Schools should have one copy for each Kindergarten teacher.

Ensure you are using the latest folder version of the assessment (updated for 2023)

Recording responses in the online tool

Teachers administer the assessment using the online tool for capturing student responses. The online tool is accessed via the [Assessing Literacy and Numeracy \(ALAN\) for CSNSW web page](#), from Term 1, 2024

ALAN also contains access to PLAN2 software and administration help. Support guides are available on the [ALAN helpdesk web page](#)

Online professional learning is available to support teachers in using the online tool.

Accessing Student assessment information

Assessment information is mapped against the National Literacy and Numeracy Learning progressions and can be accessed in PLAN2. Teachers can view student skills soon after the assessment is lodged.

Professional learning

Professional learning to support the administration of the assessment is available via MyPL.

Please use the link [Creating-a-Non-DoE-Account.pdf \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) to create a MyPL account if you do not have one. If you have had an account previously, please click LOGIN and enter your MyPL credentials.

Information for parents and carers

Prior to the assessment, you may wish to distribute the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment - Letter to parents and carers. [English and translated versions](#) are available.

The 'What is the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment - information for parents and carers' video may also be shared with parent: [BSKA Video](#)

Schools have the flexibility to choose how to provide feedback to families following the assessment. A printable parent feedback summary report is available in the online tool for schools who wish to use this option.

Additional information – PLAN2

Access and using assessment information

The assessment maps to the National Literacy and Numeracy Learning Progressions at an indicator level. Using PLAN2 provides teachers with student skill-level information, including the ability to view observations at student, class or cohort level and to focus on sub-groups of skills (that is, sub-elements).

Using PLAN2 to access assessment observations will be covered in the professional learning modules.

PLAN2 information for teachers

PLAN2 contains a range of analysis, observation screens and planning features that can support teachers in accessing indicator level observations and comments captured during the assessment.

Teachers can view information on individual students, groups of students or the class by syllabus outcomes or by sub-elements of the Literacy and Numeracy Learning Progressions.

Information in PLAN2 is available soon after assessments are lodged. Teachers can then begin to use PLAN2 to capture observations of student learning to plan for learning.

National Literacy and Numeracy Learning Progressions and PLAN2

The assessment is mapped to the National Literacy and Numeracy Learning Progressions and the K-2 NSW English and mathematics syllabuses. Schools can use the information from Best Start Kindergarten Assessment at the item level to plan and program without deep knowledge of the learning progressions.

The learning progressions will support teachers to target student learning and differentiate teaching experiences for students in greater detail.

PLAN2 continues to undergo enhancements and represents an effective tool for monitoring learning and planning for literacy and numeracy using the learning progressions across the curriculum.

Updated professional learning to support the use of the learning progressions and PLAN2 is available via the NSW Department of Education's [MyPL site](#). Please use the link [Creating-a-Non-DoE-Account.pdf \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) to create a MyPL account if you do not have one. If you have had an account previously, please click LOGIN and enter your MyPL credentials.

Contact

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