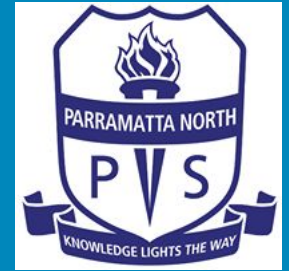




Education
Public Schools



Best Start Kindergarten Assessment

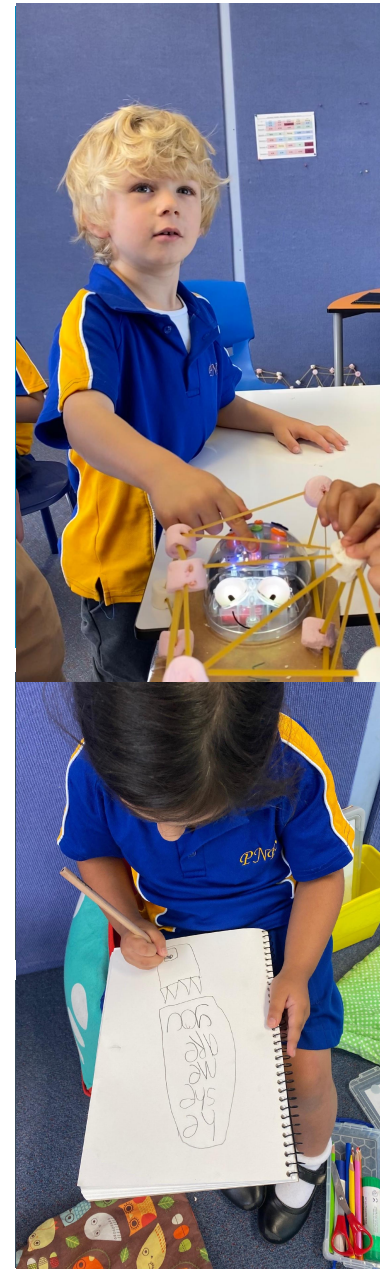
Parent Information

Parramatta North Public School



The Best Start Kindergarten Assessment

Is a mandatory, one-on-one assessment designed to identify each student's literacy and numeracy skills at the beginning of Kindergarten.



Best Start Kindergarten:

- Has been conducted in all NSW public schools since 2010.
- Is a snapshot of student's literacy and numeracy skills on entry to Kindergarten.
- It has been revised to support the NSW Government's Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2017 – 2020
- Is mapped to the National Literacy and Numeracy Learning Progressions.
- The revised assessment is conducted in line
 - with existing school practices and will build upon teaching and learning programs that support students in their transition to school.



Best Start Kindergarten Assessment

The Best Start assessment process provides a planned, systematic opportunity to:

- 'find out' what students bring to school
- determine 'starting points' for teaching
- track and monitor student learning
- provide feedback to parents
- is completed online



All Kindergarten students are expected to participate in the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment process.

- Your child will be given an appointment time during which he or she will complete the Best Start Assessment.
- This information will be emailed to you during term 4 2021.
- The Best Start Assessment will take approximately 40-45 minutes.
- There will be a ventilated area for you to wait in while the assessment is in progress.



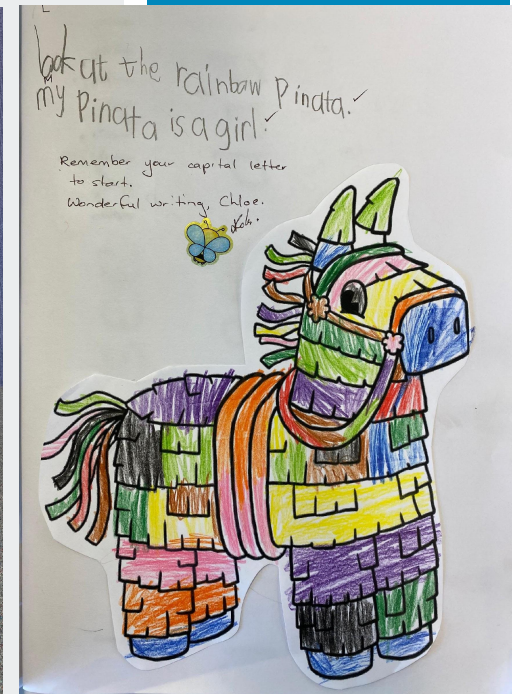
The Best Start process....

- **Assessing** - Student work, observation, interaction
- **Planning** - Cater for the range of student levels, within the context of balanced and integrated sessions
- **Instructing** - Short, sharp, focused explicit teaching for identified students using fluid and flexible grouping



Literacy Tasks

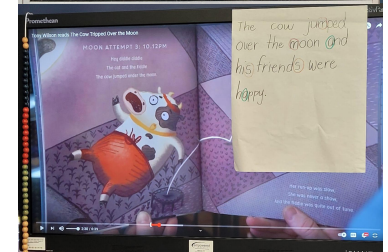
- The key purpose of early literacy teaching is to ensure that students link spoken and written language.
- Early literacy assessment makes it possible to target individual student achievement so that teachers can plan literacy programs that meet student learning needs.



Literacy Tasks

What are the critical aspects of literacy to be assessed?

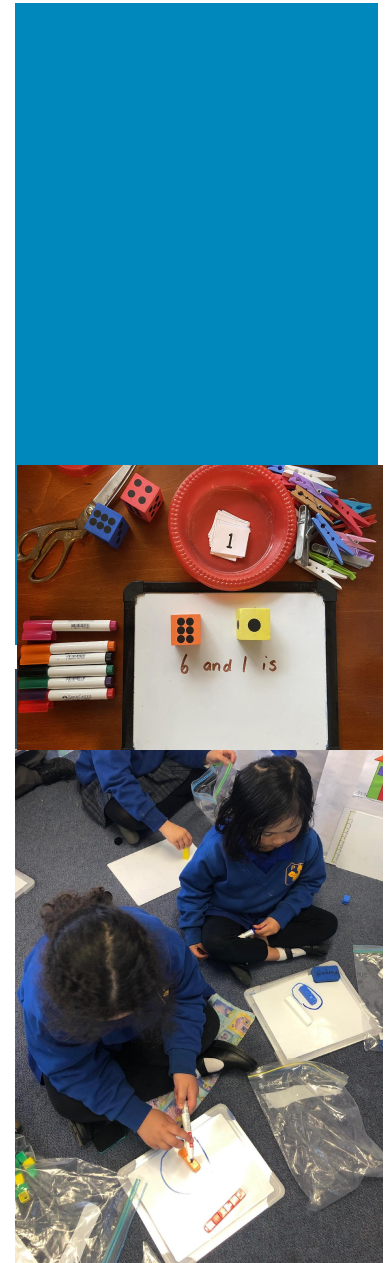
- Reading texts
- Writing
- Speaking
- Comprehension
- Concepts about print
- Phonics
- Phonemic Awareness



The Best Start Kindergarten Assessment Numeracy tasks

What are the critical aspects of numeracy to be assessed?

- Counting (numeral recognition and forward/backward number word sequences)
- Counting as a problem solving process
- Pattern recognition e.g. dice



The Best Start Kindergarten Assessment Numeracy tasks

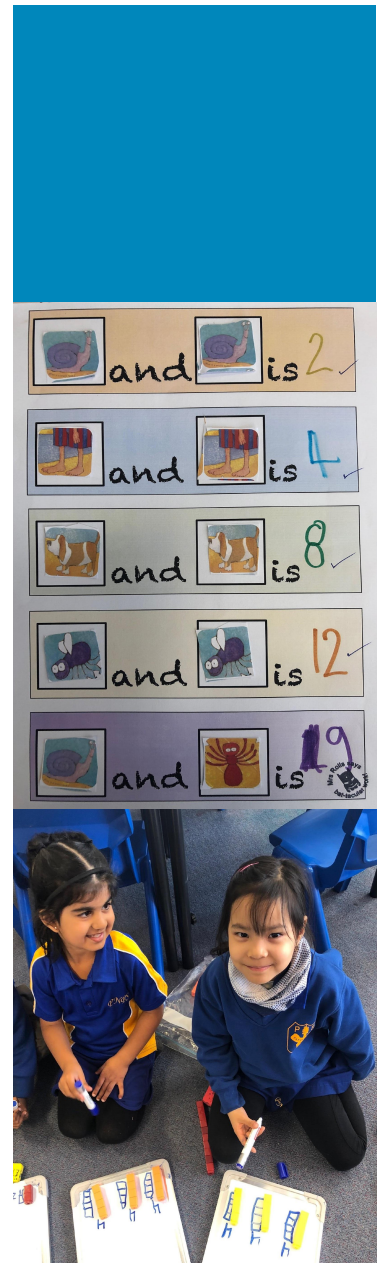
How will student assessment information be communicated to parents and caregivers?

You will receive a Parent Feedback Report on:

- Your child's learning at school entry
- How to support your child's learning at home

When should you expect to receive the report?

- Parent feedback information will be sent to parents within the first 3-4 weeks of kindergarten



What does the 'Feedback to Parents' report look like?



Kindergarten Assessment

Name : Hannah
School : Public School

Class : KD

Dear Parents/Caregivers

This term your child took part in the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment.

Your child's teacher observed them individually completing a range of specially designed tasks to guide ongoing literacy and numeracy planning for teaching.

The following pages contain information about what your child's teacher has learned about your child.

We have also included some ideas for how you can assist their learning at home.

In keeping with our usual practice, you are very welcome to discuss this feedback with your child's teacher.

Principal : _____

In Numeracy, Hannah	Ideas to use at home
Pattern and the repeated unit Uses groups of objects to create simple patterns.	Ask your child to make a pattern where each part consists of two or more objects. Ask your child to describe the pattern to you.
Counting Sequence - 1A Forward number word sequences Correctly counts from 1 to 10. Says the number that comes after a given number up to 10.	Count with your child to 30 starting from different numbers. Say a number between 1 and 30 and ask your child to tell you the number that comes after your number.
Counting Sequence - 1B Numerical identification Recognises numerals from 1 to 10.	Read the numbers on a clock face. Play games where your child has to match a number to a collection of more than ten things.
Early arithmetic strategies Says a number word for each object when counting and knows that the last number word is the total amount. Correctly adds two groups of objects and subtracts objects from a group.	Count the number of eggs in a carton and again after some have been removed. Use empty plastic bottles and a ball to make a game of skittles. Let your child arrange the bottles and encourage your child to tell you how many bottles were knocked down and how many are still standing after each bowl.



Kindergarten Assessment

In Literacy, Hannah

Ideas to use at home

Reading texts Reads one or two words in a simple book or words he/she can see around them, e.g. in signs, at shopping centres. Is able to identify some writing in a picture.	Read lots of everyday things with your child, e.g. leaflets, signs, letters, lists, street names. Talk to your child about what might be written on a page, a sign, etc, before reading it.
Phonics Names most letters in words. Says some of the sounds for letters in a word.	Make lists of interesting words with your child, e.g. a list of jungle animals. See how many letters your child can point to and name in each word. Use old magazines or advertising brochures. Ask your child to cut out letters for the sounds they know. Help him/her to learn three new sounds and their letters.
Phonemic awareness Can sometimes identify rhyming words. Can sometimes identify words that start with the same initial sound.	Read books to your child that have rhyming words in them. Encourage your child to join in reading the words that rhyme. Play I Spy with your child. That is, say, I spy with my little eye something that starts with /p/. Can you guess what it is? Your child tries to guess the thing that begins with the sound.
Concepts about print Identifies a number of capital letters.	Talk about the different print effects used in things such as advertising brochures, posters and newspapers e.g. bold coloured print, speech bubbles, etc.
Comprehension Can retell a story in a sequence that includes a beginning, middle and end. Is able to recall many details from illustrations in a story book.	After reading a story or watching a film, talk about the beginning, middle and the end. Encourage your child to notice how characters behave/change as the story/film progresses. Talk with your child about why the author/illustrator has used particular features, e.g. Why are dark colours used in the picture? How does this picture help us to understand the story better?
Aspects of speaking Uses simple sentences or phrases when speaking. Generally speaks clearly but with some hesitations.	After reading a story, ask your child to talk about his/her favourite part of the story or favourite character. Encourage your child to talk to a variety of people while with you, e.g. shopkeepers, relatives, healthcare workers, etc.
Aspects of writing Is able to write first name. Writes one or more ideas. Is learning to spell words, form letters and punctuate sentences correctly.	Help your child write the names of other family members and his/her surname. Write the beginning of a sentence and ask your child to finish writing the sentence. Talk about where to put the capital letter and the full stop.

Thank you

We look forward to seeing you at your child's Best Start Appointment time.

For any further information please do not hesitate to contact the school on:

Telephone: 9630-1768

Or myself on:

leanne.rolls@det.nsw.edu.au

