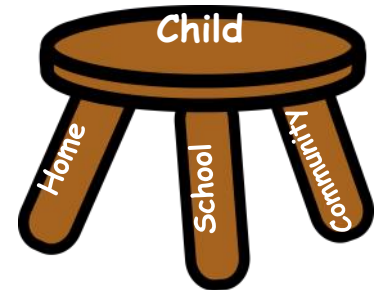
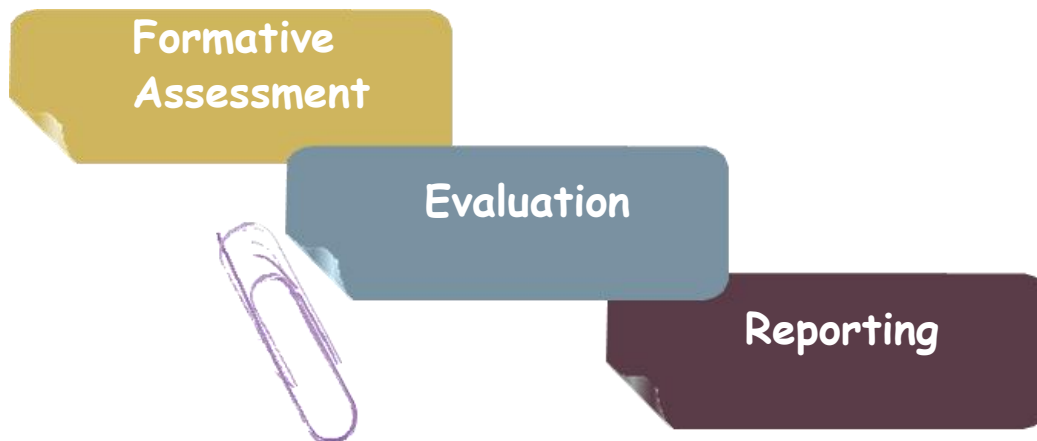




A PARENT'S GUIDE TO CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT

WHAT IS CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT?

When you think about classroom assessment, letter grades and report cards may come to mind. This is only one part of classroom assessment. There are three different parts:



Formative assessment is designed to improve learning. It is intended to provide feedback to both teachers and students.

Evaluation is the process of analyzing evidence to decide if students have mastered certain content, skills and grade level outcomes.

Reporting involves communicating information about students' achievement to parents and others.

While attention is often focused on reporting, all three practices work seamlessly together to create optimum learning experiences that accurately assess and report student achievement.

Home is an important piece of the educational process. Good communication is important as we work together to support student learning. If you have questions about an activity or assignment, you are encouraged to talk to your child's teacher.



Innovative assessment and grading practices can and will significantly improve the experiences and success of the students in our schools.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

WHAT IS IT?

Teachers use formative assessment in their classroom every day. Formative assessment includes sharing goals and criteria with students and giving them feedback while they are working towards those goals. The purpose is to help students understand how to improve.

WHAT DOES FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT LOOK LIKE IN THE CLASSROOM?

Think of the teacher's role as similar to a coach. Coaches need to be very clear about what they want players to do to be successful. Players need time to practice new skills and receive feedback to help them improve. In the classroom, students also need time to practice new skills they need to know:

- what to do (using goals and criteria)
- how to improve (using feedback)
- where to improve (using self-assessment)

Research says:

- ⇒ Formative assessment is one of the most powerful ways to help students learn.
- ⇒ Clear goals and criteria are important for student success.
- ⇒ Students are more motivated when they are involved in creating criteria.

Components of Formative Assessment	What it means	What it can look like in the classroom		
Goals	What students are going to learn	Write a paragraph that explains...		
Criteria	What must be included in an assignment	Be sure to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear topic sentence • Three key reasons you believe are the most important • Transitions between ideas 		
Feedback	Information about how to improve: can be written or oral	Criteria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		A clear topic sentence	Purpose is clear	Purpose is not clear
Self-Assessment	Students reflect on the quality of their work and revise based on feedback and criteria	One question I have... I need more help with... One thing I could change...		

AT HOME

- To be successful, children must know what they are supposed to do, written in language they can understand. Ask your child to explain the criteria for the assignment. If neither of you understand it, have a conversation with the teacher.
- Look at the criteria for the assignment with your child. Has your child carefully completed all the criteria? Be sure he/she understands what he/she is being asked to do.
- When your child asks for feedback, be specific. Tell him/her what he/she did well and what could be improved in relation to the criteria.
- Have your child read his/her work to you, or read your child's work aloud to him/her. What did he/she notice? Did he/she leave out any important ideas?

EVALUATION

WHAT IS IT?

Teachers evaluate, or measure student learning, many times throughout the year. The purpose is to see what students know, understand and can do in relation to educational goals. This provides teachers an idea of how well the student is doing in relation to provincial goals.

WHAT DOES CLASSROOM EVALUATION LOOK LIKE?

Every subject has a curriculum with a wide range of skills and knowledge that must be taught. Once students have received feedback and practiced these skills, teachers evaluate their progress. They assign a level of achievement to various tasks. These may include tests, projects, presentations and a variety of other ways to show learning.

WHAT IS THE LINK BETWEEN FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION?

How often student work is evaluated and how often teachers use formative assessment in their classrooms is directly linked to students progress. While it is necessary for teachers to evaluate student work and assign marks, research tells us that placing a number or letter grade on everything a student does can negatively impact motivation and learning. Giving more feedback can lead to improved student achievement.

Learning how to use feedback takes time and practice. As a result, students may not receive a mark for every assignment or task completed. This is a reflection of having more opportunities to practice skills and respond to feedback before a mark is given.

Oct. 16
Remember to use a variety of describing words:
-i.e. enormous or gigantic instead of repeating big

Learning Targets

- I can explain perimeter & area.
- I can identify different formulas used to calculate perimeter and area.
- I can calculate the area of a rectangle and a square
- I can calculate the perimeter of a rectangle and a square.
- I can calculate the amount of flooring needed for our classroom.

Research says:

⇒ Placing a number or letter grade on everything a student does can negatively impact progress.

AT HOME:

If your child does not understand his/her level of achievement, have a conversation with the teacher.

Reporting

WHAT IS IT?

The purpose of reporting is to communicate student achievement to parents. Letter symbols provide a snapshot of what students know, understand and can do. Factors such as late assignments and behaviour are important and are communicated through conversations, through the Personal Social Growth Rubric and through comments on the Progress Report.

WHAT DOES REPORTING LOOK LIKE TO PARENTS?

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 receive symbols on the Progress Report for each subject area and for outcomes in English Language Arts and Math. Parents of all students in Grades 1-12 have access to ongoing communication through the division online portal (PowerSchool Parent Portal).

The overall Level of Achievement summarizes a term of learning into one symbol for the course and provides information about how well the student has achieved mastery of curriculum outcomes. For Outcome Reports, the Level of Achievement provides more specific information about how well the student has mastered particular curriculum outcomes. Outcome Levels of Achievement help parents better understand what is expected of their children in school and help to identify students' learning strengths as well as areas of struggle or difficulty.

⇒ When your child struggles, encourage him/her to explore different ways to find the answer. This helps to build independence.

Symbol	Word	Meaning of Symbol
ET	Established	Demonstrates deep understanding of outcome without help Consistently applies knowledge in new situations
ME	Meeting	Demonstrates understanding of outcome Frequently applies knowledge in new situation
PR	Progressing	Developing understanding of outcome Requires support to show knowledge
BE	Beginning	Limited understanding of outcome Requires substantial guidance and support
IN	Insufficient Evidence	Not enough evidence to report achievement
AG	Adjusted Grade	Outcomes adjusted in number and complexity Discussed with parent/guardian prior to report
EL	English Language Learner	English language is the focus for the learner Outcomes have been adjusted to allow for learning of English

AT HOME

- Find out what your child is most proud of.
- Ask what could be improved upon.
- Sit down with your child and take a positive approach regardless of the level of achievement.
- If your child does not understand the level of achievement, have a conversation with the teacher.
- If assistance is required to access PowerSchool Parent Portal, have a conversation with the teacher.