

# The On-entry Assessment Program

## Key messages for Pre-Primary parents



[www.det.wa.edu.au/educationalmeasurement](http://www.det.wa.edu.au/educationalmeasurement) - On entry - For parents

<p><b>We know that...</b></p> <p>We know that educational needs vary from child to child and may constantly change, with children bringing to school a wide range of experiences, understandings and knowledge. Through constant and ongoing observations your child's teacher is able to ensure that programs continue to meet to changing needs of each and every child.</p>	
Important	There is <b>no pass or fail</b> in this assessment.
Purpose	<p><b>What is the purpose of the program?</b></p> <p>The main purpose of the On-entry assessment program is to provide teachers with information about the understandings that a child brings to school.</p> <p>Conducting this assessment early in the year ensures that your child's teacher has a sound knowledge of the current skills and understandings of each child early to assist in the planning and development of targeted learning programs that address the needs of each individual – those that may require early intervention, consolidation or extension. This approach is supported by national and international research into the early identification of students' literacy and numeracy skills.</p>
What?	<p><b>What the program assesses...</b></p> <p><b>Literacy and numeracy skills</b> critical to early and ongoing educational development are assessed.</p> <p><b>What the program does not assess...</b></p> <p>It is recognised that the domains of physical health, behaviour, creativity, social and emotional health, as well as language and cognitive skills must all be considered in the overall development of each child.</p> <p>While the purpose of this program is to assess literacy and numeracy skills, during the assessment opportunities often present to the teacher to observe other domains.</p>
Who?	<p><b>Who participates in the program?</b></p> <p>In order to provide each Pre-primary teacher with current and valuable information on each child in their class, the Term 1 program is mandated in all West Australian schools for all Pre-primary students. Any exemptions or withdrawals should be discussed with the teacher and principal.</p>
When?	<p><b>When does the program take place?</b></p> <p>Literacy and Numeracy Module 1 will be conducted in weeks 3-6 of Term 1.</p> <p><b>Is the assessment repeated?</b></p> <p>The program is available again in Term 4 for teachers to assess selected or all Pre-primary children in literacy and/or numeracy. The program is also available in Years 1 and 2. Selected reports link to any previous and future On-entry assessments to show the development of skills over time of each participating child.</p>
How?	<p><b>How is the program conducted?</b></p> <p>The teacher works through a set of tasks with each child in a one-to-one situation in a quiet area away from distractions, with all responses to questions being recorded online. Some tasks can be incorporated into the classroom program during the assessment period.</p> <p><b>What resources are used in the program?</b></p> <p>Many tasks are 'hands-on' using resources provided in a kit; others are sourced from the classroom.</p>