

When?

Assessment takes place

- during whole-class instruction
- during small-group instruction
- during independent writing time
- through conversation
- while your child is writing
- during writing conferences
- after your child has completed a piece of writing

You can help your child by

- encouraging and providing opportunities for your child to write at home
- having your child see you write for various purposes
- talking about writing with your child
- encouraging your child to focus on and record ideas before matters of correctness
- sharing what you notice about your child's writing habits with his or her teacher
- praising your child's efforts at writing

Let's talk about ...

Classroom Assessment in Writing: Grades 3–6



This pamphlet is part of a series to inform parents about the Nova Scotia Department of Education Public School Program for students in grades 3–6.

For more information, contact your child's teacher.

The Atlantic Canada English language arts curriculum is shaped by a vision of enabling and encouraging students to become reflective, articulate, literate individuals who use language successfully for learning and communicating in personal and public contexts.

Let's talk about ...

Classroom Assessment in Writing Grades 3–6

Assessment is the process of gathering information on student learning. Classroom assessment happens in many ways every day. By regularly assessing your child's strengths and needs using a variety of assessment tools, your child's teacher can design instruction that addresses your child's needs. Information gathered through assessments will also help to determine your child's growth over time.

What?

Your child's writing is assessed on

- **ideas:** clear and focussed messages
- **organization:** effective arrangement of key ideas and details
- **voice:** the way a writer's personality and perspective shine through his or her writing
- **word choice:** appropriate language used to express ideas to fit the audience, topic, and purpose
- **sentence fluency:** rhythm and flow of language to make the message clear
- **conventions:** using accepted standards of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar

Why?

Your child's writing is assessed to

- identify your child's individual needs
- document what your child can do
- measure progress over time
- inform instruction
- inform students
- inform parents

How?

Your child's writing is assessed through the use of

- formal or informal observation
- anecdotal records
- rubrics/scoring guides
- checklists
- work samples/portfolios
- learning logs and journals
- writing conferences
- writing surveys
- writing inventories
- student-involved assessment of writing—self and peer

let's talk about ...