

Bringing NAPLAN home: The results and your child

As parents and carers, we all take great interest in our children and their paths in life. We know it is really important that they develop key skills such as literacy and numeracy to help them through school, work and life.



NAPLAN (the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) is a national test undertaken by all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students, designed to provide information on your child's literacy and numeracy achievements. This year NAPLAN was taken on 13, 14 and 15 May.

NAPLAN results provide additional information, which can be used along with school assessment and testing. It allows you to compare your child's achievement with other children across Australia. By itself, NAPLAN does not improve the quality of education, but it gives us a national snapshot of how our children are doing in those important skills of literacy and numeracy.

NAPLAN is important to your child as it provides information for school authorities and schools to review the effectiveness of their programs and to address any areas requiring improvement. It is important that you know as early as possible about your child's strengths or if your child needs assistance. NAPLAN helps with this.

Sometime in August and September you will receive your son or daughter's NAPLAN report. I encourage you to read the report in the context of what you already know about your child's academic performance and in conjunction with other assessment information and reports you may already have received from your child's school. Further information on how to read the report is found on the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au/results-and-reports/student-reports.html

Your son or daughter's results will be reported against six levels of achievement. Your child's results will be indicated by a black dot. The black triangle shows the national average for children in that year level.

This means you can compare your child's performance to children in the same year level. As with all tests, small differences between students' NAPLAN scores do not reflect real achievement differences.

Using this information, you can then take the time to celebrate the success that you see and/or identify areas for improvement. You should talk to your child's teacher about what you should do next if you see areas that need improvement.

If your child is concerned with their results, remind them that NAPLAN isn't a pass or fail test and there are no rewards or penalties for the result your child achieves. Rather, the NAPLAN student report is a point in time snapshot of your child's achievements in the important areas of literacy and numeracy. This snapshot gives an indication of how your child compares with students across Australia.

ACARA is committed to improving learning for all young Australians through world-class curriculum, assessment and reporting. This year, we are aiming for NAPLAN results to be returned to you more quickly than in previous years.

As teachers and parents continue on with the rest of 2014, I urge you to keep NAPLAN student reports in context. Don't stop any activities your child enjoys; don't focus your child only on literacy and numeracy. Evidence shows that a well-rounded education, including the pursuit of other activities such as sport and art, contributes to the development of literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills. All activities are crucial to the school program and contribute to developing informed, happy children who are confident in their own abilities.



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