

# Best Start transition to school

A positive start for all children

# Continuity of learning and transitions

‘Building on children’s prior and current experiences helps them to feel secure and confident and connected to familiar people, places, events and understandings.’

*The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*

Children start school with having many and varied experiences that have developed and shaped their language, literacy and numeracy knowledge from within their family and community.



# Best Start

Parents and prior to school service providers lay the foundation for learning that school education will build upon in a more formal setting.

Best Start assists children to move smoothly from informal to formal learning.

It is a time when teachers develop a relationship with each individual student in the classroom.



# Best Start

Is it a test?

No

*Best Start* is **not** a test. It is the classroom teacher working with each child on literacy and numeracy tasks to gain a starting point for planning effective teaching and learning activities. The children **do not** pass or fail. There **is no** preparation required.

# What is Best Start?

*Best Start* is one component of a NSW Government initiative to increase literacy and numeracy learning support in the early years of schooling.

## *Best start:*

- teachers gather and analyse information as evidence about what children know, can do and understand in Literacy and Numeracy.
- provides important information that supports teachers in meeting children's individual learning needs
- provides families with feedback on what their child can do and how they can best support their child's learning
- assists teachers to monitor children's learning. This is ongoing through out the child's schooling years.



# Who is involved?



All Kindergarten children in public schools participate.

Administered by the classroom teacher in a classroom environment in the school.

Children complete most tasks individually with the teacher, though some tasks may take place in small groups.

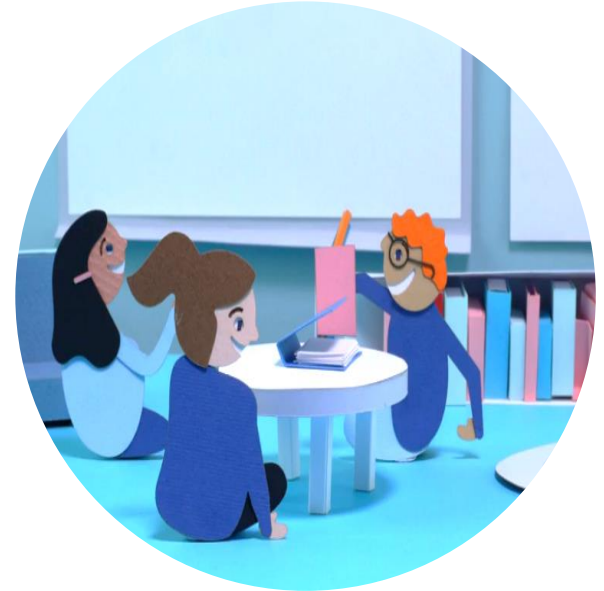
Classroom teachers observe and record the child's responses.

# When and where is Best Start administered?

Best Start begins with the teacher interviewing each child at the beginning of the Kindergarten year.

The interview takes place in a supportive environment within the school. Children complete most tasks individually with the teacher, though some tasks may take place in small groups.

Classroom teachers observe and record the child's responses.



# How is Best Start administered?

Teachers ask a series of questions to gather information about children's early literacy and numeracy knowledge.

Teachers record directly into the Best Start software their observations and the child's responses.





# Best Start: an example of a literacy question



Tell me what happened in the story.

# Best Start: An example of a numeracy question



Start counting  
and I will tell  
you when to  
stop.

# Best Start information

Teachers learn about each child's school entry skills and understandings in literacy and numeracy and are able to plan effective teaching and learning programs in line with the NSW K-6 Syllabus.

Parents and carers may be sent a feedback summary report of their child's responses in Best Start. You will be provided with feedback about how you can support your child during the first year of school.

