



## Conversations About Assessment: A Parent's Guide

Assessment plays a crucial role in understanding your child's progress and supporting their learning journey. This handout aims to provide you with valuable insights into assessment practices and how you can support your child's learning effectively.

### Coaching to Improve Learning

- Encourage a growth mindset: Emphasize the importance of effort and resilience in learning.
- Provide actionable feedback: Focus on specific areas for improvement and celebrate learning.
- Set achievable goals: Help your child set realistic goals and create action plans to reach them.

### Variety of Assessment Tasks

- Each subject area as a wide range of KUSPs (knowledge, understandings, skills and procedures) that must be learned and assessed
- As set out by the Teaching Quality Standard, teachers must use multiple pieces of evidence as this provides accurate information ensuring the validity of the mark
- Ask the teacher to show you the many ways that your child shows what they know, understand and can do.

### Supporting Each Other to Support Student Learning

- Collaborate with teachers: Maintain open communication with your child's teachers to understand their learning needs and progress.
- Foster a supportive home environment: Create a space where learning is valued, and your child feels supported in their academic journey.

## Assurance That Assessment is Fair

- Assessments should be valid, in that the results that we draw from them about students learning should be meaningful. Questions are based on the curriculum being assessed.
- Understand assessment criteria: Familiarize yourself with the criteria used to assess your child's work and seek clarification if needed.
- Developing classroom assessments has always been the job of the teacher based on the program of studies. Teachers gather this information in a variety of ways.
- When helping your child ask to see the criteria or rubric, if neither of you understand the criteria, then have a conversation with the teacher

## Ongoing Assessment Throughout Learning Process

- Embrace formative assessment: Recognize the value of ongoing feedback and assessment to guide your child's learning journey.
- Don't make report cards an event, rather an opportunity for conversation.

For more information: <https://aac.ab.ca/>

