

Dear Parent or Caregiver,

This is to inform you about the *Best Start Kindergarten Assessment (Best Start Kindergarten Assessment)*, that will take place at our school in Term 1.

What is the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment?

Children come to school with different levels of literacy and numeracy. Some are familiar with books, can recognise some letters, even write their name or count to ten, while others have not yet learned these skills.

Our Kindergarten teachers have always observed their new students and used different methods to find out what each child knows and can do so that they can plan and teach what their students need to learn next.

This year, we are taking part in Best Start, which has been developed by early learning experts in the Department of Education and Training. Best Start is giving our teachers, and those teaching Kindergarten across New South Wales, a common set of high quality assessment tools and professional training.

We believe that Best Start will build on the strengths of our teachers and give your child an even better start to school.

Your child and the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment

It is very important to emphasise that *Best Start Kindergarten Assessment* is not a test. Its purpose is to help the teacher gather information to guide the teaching of your child.

The teacher will observe each child and use tasks, such as talking about a book that has been read, and record what their students know and can do. The teaching of your child will be based on the information gathered in these ways.

You'll be given feedback about what your child's teacher has learned about your child, which you are welcome to discuss, if you wish, in keeping with our usual practice.

What is being assessed?

The teacher will look at your child's early reading and writing, their ability to communicate with others, and how they recognise and work with numbers, groups and patterns.

Attached are two guides that will give more information about what will be assessed.

With all good wishes for the best possible start for your child's education.

Roxanne Sanday

**Assistant Principal
Wadalba Community School**