

Performance
Indicators in
Primary Schools
(PIPS)

EARLY YEARS
ASSESSMENT PROGRAM



Education and Training

PIPS

**More information about PIPS
can be obtained from:**

The principal of your child's school

OR

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The **Performance
Indicators in Primary
Schools Program** assesses
the early literacy and
numeracy skills of
students in kindergarten

The Department of Education and Training collects student information from PIPS to enable schools to develop learning programs targeted at meeting individual student needs. Information gained from PIPS may be used, together with NAPLAN data, for reporting and planning purposes. This information is managed in accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act 1988 and the Freedom of Information Act 1989.

What is PIPS?

PIPS is a computer based assessment program that can assist with:

- *determining* what kindergarten students know when they enter primary school
- *assessing* the progress of students in literacy, numeracy and phonological awareness (sounds in language)
- *diagnosing* individual student work and providing information to indicate what students are achieving or understanding
- *predicting* future performance and identifying students who might benefit from early intervention or enrichment.

What is special about PIPS?

PIPS is not a traditional test with a fixed number of questions presented on paper.

The assessment consists of screens, presented on the computer, that are visually appealing to young children. Students' progress through the PIPS program is determined by their responses and reflects their abilities.

In this way, the assessment is a positive experience for all children because they are not presented with a large number of questions that they cannot answer.

Who developed PIPS?

The PIPS assessment was developed by the Curriculum Evaluation and Management Centre, University of Durham, England.

PIPS is based on comprehensive research across the world into the literacy and numeracy development of students in primary school. PIPS has been trialled and modified for Australian students.

Who uses PIPS?

PIPS is used in Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, the UK and other countries. PIPS is used by schools in all Australian states and territories. The ACT Department of Education and Training, in consultation with the University of Western Australia, provides PIPS for use in ACT public schools.

Who is assessed?

Students in kindergarten will be expected to participate in the PIPS assessment program.

Parents who do not want their child to take part must discuss this with the school principal.

How do students do PIPS?

The teacher works with students on a one-to-one basis, in front of a computer. The assessment takes between 15 and 20 minutes to administer depending on the student's ability.

The student either points on the screen or provides a verbal response to questions and the teacher uses the mouse to record answers.

When will the assessment take place?

Term 1

The first assessment is administered within the first month of school.

Term 4

The second assessment is administered early in term 4 and shows how the students have progressed relative to their starting point in the first assessment.

How can I prepare my child for the assessment?

There is no need to prepare your child for the assessment. The purpose is to find out what skills students have when they start school so that appropriate learning programs are prepared.

Reporting on PIPS

Reports are provided to school principals and relevant teachers to assist with planning and teaching in the classroom.

The PIPS results are part of the wide range of assessment information collected by teachers. This information provides parents and carers with an extensive picture of their child's learning and progress.

Parents and carers are encouraged to discuss their child's progress with teachers, establishing a partnership that supports their child's future learning.