

How will mathematics be assessed?

Mathematics today is assessed differently than when you were a child. As parents, you might remember that what mattered in mathematics was that you had the right answer and you “showed your work”. Your mark in math was based upon how many right answers you had. Today, mathematics is assessed in ways that involve the learner actively in demonstrating their understanding.

Students still need to get the right answer when working on math problems. However, the teacher looks at more than just the right answer when assessing how your child is doing with math. “Showing your work” may look different from student to student. The teacher will **observe** your child as they are involved with a mathematics problem or activity. Sometimes, a teacher will have a **conversation** with your child about a piece of work that has been completed or about one that he is working on. Finally, the teacher will examine the **product** of the math problem, which might be written work, a graph, a diagram, a model, or

equations and numbers. All three of these strategies (observation, conversation, and product) are used to determine your child’s abilities and limitations with the math. With so much information, sometimes even with the incorrect answer, your child can still achieve marks in math!

Parents sometimes see students working in groups and wonder how it is going to help their child achieve. In classrooms, discussion about the math, exploration of strategies and experimentation with different approaches is best done when students work together. However, these activities should not be used for assessment. These activities support students in their thinking and developing understandings. Often, students engage in group work that reflects an independent activity that students will be doing at another time. Work that is completed by your child and explained by your child is the best work to assess how your child is achieving.

Alberta Education Implementation Schedule	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Provincial	Grades K, 1, 4, 7	Grades 2, 5, 8	Grades 3, 6, 9, 10
Optional	Grades 2, 5, 8	Grades 3, 6, 9	

This newsletter article is produced by the Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia as a result of a grant from Alberta Education to support implementation of mathematics.

- Ask your child's teacher how you might support your child with math at home in a fun way! Students can apply their learning when playing games with you!

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