

Early Start



Frequently asked questions for parents

Early Start

Q. What is *Early Start*?

A. *Early Start* is a set of literacy and numeracy materials for optional use in Queensland state schools with your child in Prep, Year 1 and Year 2. Your child's teachers may use the materials to gather data about literacy and numeracy.

Q. Why does my child's school use *Early Start*?

A. The early years of schooling (Prep–Year 2) are a critical time for your child as they develop foundational literacy and numeracy skills for success in future learning and in later life. The significant rate of learning and development that occurs within the early years of schooling requires that teachers continually monitor your child's literacy and numeracy progress to ensure they meet your child's needs.

Q. Why aren't all schools using *Early Start*?

A. *Early Start* is offered as one option for your child's school to consider when gathering information about student progress in literacy and numeracy. Your child's school may opt to use *Early Start* if it is the best fit for the school's context.

Q. When will my child's school start using *Early Start*?

A. *Early Start* will be available for schools to use with Prep students from 2014, and Year 1 and Year 2 students from 2015.

Q. What kind of data will *Early Start* provide about my child?

A. The literacy and numeracy data gathered from *Early Start* will relate to specific areas of the Australian Curriculum general capabilities of Literacy and Numeracy. Your child's teachers will be able to access the data in OneSchool as they plan the next steps in learning for your child and track your child's progress across the early years.

Q. What will my child's teacher do with the *Early Start* data?

A. The primary purpose of *Early Start* is to enable your child's teachers to target instruction and scaffold learning to inform the next steps in teaching and learning for your child. *Early Start* generates data to inform curriculum planning and support teachers to more effectively make decisions about teaching and learning in Prep to Year 2. Your child's teacher will also be able to plan for the individual needs of your child.

Q. Will my child be marked on *Early Start*?

A. No individual student reports are provided and your child will not be awarded a grade. All data generated from *Early Start* is used to support your child's teachers in making decisions for curriculum planning, and to differentiate teaching and learning for your child.

Q. Is *Early Start* suitable for all students in P-2?

A. *Early Start* is inclusive of all students, including students with disability, EAL/D students, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and students requiring support or extension.

Q. How much does *Early Start* cost?

A. *Early Start* is provided free of charge to all Education Queensland schools and there is no cost to parents. Your child's teacher will access all of the tasks and marking guides for Prep – Year 2 through OneSchool, Education Queensland's secure, electronic information management system.