

ABLEWA Abilities Based Learning Education, Western Australia

Fact sheet for parents

Introduction

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority is committed to providing a curriculum that is inclusive of all students' individual strengths and needs in order for every child in Western Australian schools to achieve their potential.

To assist this goal, the Abilities Based Learning and Education, Western Australia (ABLEWA) resources support the teaching and learning of students with disability and additional needs.

What is ABLEWA?

ABLEWA is a program that uses curriculum materials and an assessment tool that will enhance the resources currently available to teachers.

Developed by the Department of Education and Training, Victoria and the University of Melbourne, the materials have received positive feedback and strong results from the many Victorian schools that use them. In Western Australia 124 schools were involved in trialling the resources in 2015 and, based on the positive feedback, they are now available to all schools across the state.

How does this affect my child in the classroom?

ABLEWA enables a teacher to:

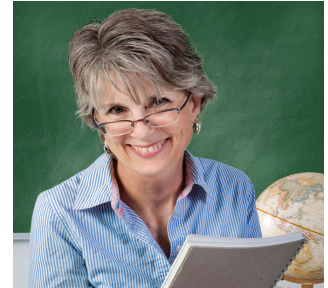
- assess a student's readiness to learn
- develop appropriate learning goals for various learning areas in collaboration with a student support group
- develop an appropriate individual education plan that can be linked to proven teaching and learning strategies
- monitor the student's learning progress and provide new information to parents on their child's learning and development
- identify the resources that are known to improve learning, which can be adjusted as the learning needs of students change over time.

We believe that this will enhance the classroom learning experience for students.

How will my child be assessed?

The ABLEWA assessment tool is made up of three assessments that are completed online by a teacher. The assessments cover the learning domains of:

- English Speaking and Listening
- English Reading and Writing
- Personal and Social Capability



Together, they give a comprehensive picture of a student's strengths and abilities in these domains and capture important indicators of student proficiency and understanding.

It is not necessary to test students prior to completing the online assessment. Nor do students participate directly in the assessment process. The assessments describe skills and abilities that teachers can observe in everyday school and classroom contexts and interactions with students.

Will I be kept informed of my child's progress?

Good communication between schools and parents/carers is important in every child's learning. The teacher will complete the ABLEWA assessments, preferably with input from a student support group. This group may include parents/carers, particularly for a student in their first year of school. If you have questions please speak to your classroom teacher or Principal.

How will the assessments be used?

In many schools, the assessments may be used at the start of a school year as part of the transition of students from one classroom teacher to another, or from one year level to another.

The assessments may also be used as part of the normal assessment and reporting cycle in schools, at mid-year and again at the end of the year. This is a decision that will be made by the school. ■