



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

→ Primary → Assessment → Report Cards

Your child's school report

You will receive a written report from your child's school at the end of the school year. This report will give you information on your child's progress and achievement in school in four key areas:

A. Your child as a learner

C. Your child's learning across the curriculum

B. Your child's social and personal development

D. Your key role in supporting your child's learning

The report may include information on:

Your child as a learner

- how your child likes learning in school
- how your child works with other children, or on his/her own
- how your child keeps trying at work, even when it is hard
- how well your child works in school or at home

Your child's social and personal development

- if your child appears happy in school
- how he/she behaves
- how he/she gets on with other children in the classroom and in the playground

Your child's learning across the curriculum

- how he/she is getting on in English, Gaeilge, mathematics, and in the other subject areas
- whether he/she needs a little or a lot of help with school work
- whether your child needs a little or a lot of help with homework

You can watch a DVD on children's learning in primary schools at www.ncca.ie



How you can further support your child's learning

- how you might be able to help your child to do better in school
- things you can do at home to help with your child's learning

For tip sheets on ways you can help your child to learn, visit www.ncca.ie

More
Tip sheets
for Parents

Standardised test results

- the result of a standardised test which will appear as a number. Schools must share the standardised test result with you when your child is in 2nd, 4th and 6th class.
- your child's teacher should provide you with a leaflet explaining standardised testing and test scores

For leaflets for parents on standardised testing, visit www.ncca.ie



Comments

- how your child is doing from his/her teachers point of view
- a comment on some aspect of the report or perhaps drawing your attention to something (s)he would like to talk to you about
- specific praise for your child on a special achievement or quality



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Explanation of terms that may be used in your child's school report

English and Gaeilge

Listening comprehension – the ability to understand what is said by others.

Oral Expression – the ability to talk to others in a clear and effective way.

Pre-writing – the skills required before writing on his/her own. For example, pencil grip, forming and naming the letters of the alphabet, learning that letters represent sounds etc.

Pre-reading – the skills required before reading on his/her own. For example, developing an awareness of letter sounds, understanding that words and sentences go from left to right, understanding that pictures in a text add to the meaning etc.

Written expression – the ability to write with meaning and for a purpose.

Mathematics

Understanding and recalling – the ability to show understanding of a maths idea and remember important facts.

Using procedures – the ability to use clear and appropriate steps to answer a sum or solve a maths problem.

Reasoning and problem solving – the ability to use knowledge of maths to work out problems.

Explaining and communicating – the ability to share thinking about why a problem was approached in a particular way.

What do my child's standardised test scores mean?

What do standardised tests measure?

Standardised tests in **English reading** and **maths** measure your child's achievement compared to other children in **all schools** at the same class or age level. The standardised test in **Irish reading** measures a child's achievement compared to other children in Irish-speaking schools at the same class or age level.

When does my child complete standardised tests?

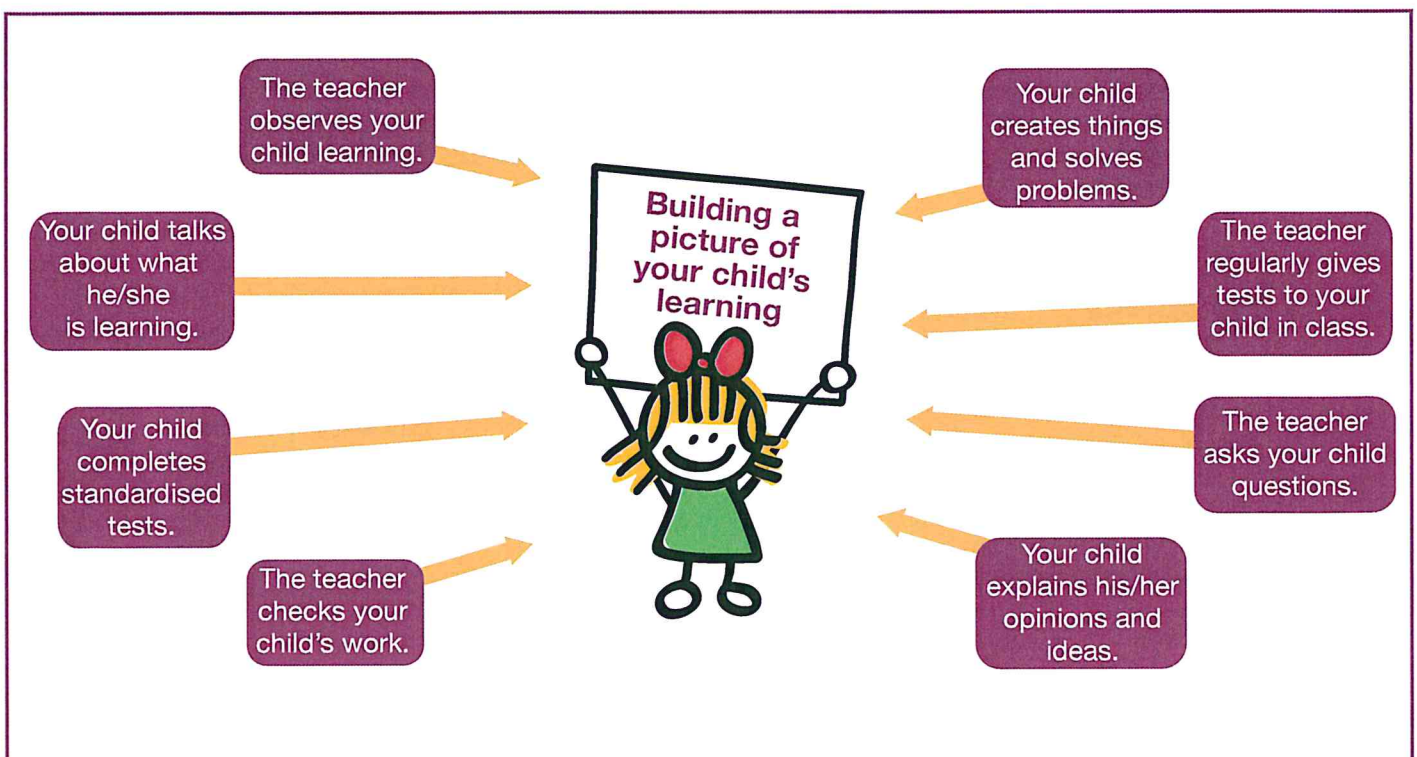
Your child completes standardised tests towards the end of **2nd, 4th and 6th classes**. Your child only completes a standardised test in **Irish reading** if he/she attends an Irish-speaking school. Some schools choose to use standardised tests with more classes.

Do all children take standardised tests?

Your child's teacher will decide which children will take the tests. For example, if your child's first language is not English, the teacher may decide that he/she should not take the English reading test. Your child may, however, take the maths test. If your child has a learning or physical disability, the teacher may decide to use a different way to measure your child's progress.

Are standardised tests the only way of gathering information about my child's learning?

No. The diagram below shows how the teacher uses **many** different ways to build a **picture of your child's learning** during the year. The teacher uses the picture to **celebrate** your child's achievements and to plan the **next steps** needed to build on progress made.





What do my child's test scores mean?

The teacher used **STen scores** to tell you how your child did in the tests. STen scores go from 1 to 10. The table below describes what the different STen scores tell you about your child's achievement in the tests.

STen score	What does the STen score mean?	Proportion of children with this score
8 - 10	Well above average	1/6 or almost 17%
7	High average	1/6 or almost 17%
5 - 6	Average	1/3 or almost 34%
4	Low average	1/6 or almost 17%
1 - 3	Well below average	1/6 or almost 17%

If your child's STen score is between 5 and 6 for example, you will know that his/her performance on the test is average. The table shows that about one in every three children in Ireland have STen scores in this range. You can also see that some children have STen scores above and below the average.

Scores for children with English as an additional language may not always reflect progress being made in class. Similar care is needed when interpreting scores for children with special educational needs.

If my child's score is low, what does this tell me?

A STen score of 1, 2 or 3 suggests that your child **may** have difficulties in one of the areas tested. Other assessments may be used to determine if this is the case. Information about your child's learning and development at home e.g. homework, may also be helpful to the teacher. Teachers at your child's school may decide that your child would benefit from extra support. If so, your child's teacher will talk to you about this.

If my child's score is high, what does this tell me?

A STen score of 8, 9 or 10 **may** suggest that your child is a high achiever in the area tested. As with low scores, one high score is not enough to confirm this. Your child's teacher will use information from other classroom assessments to understand more clearly how well your child is doing in maths, English reading or Irish reading. The teacher may talk to you about extra learning opportunities that you and the school can provide for your child.

What can affect my child's test score?

As with other tests your child does in school, the score on a standardised test can be affected by how he/she feels on the test day or by worry or excitement about a home or school event. This means that each test score is an **indication** of your child's achievement. Remember that you play an important role in encouraging and supporting your child regardless of test results. You may like to arrange to meet with your child's teacher if you have any concerns about his/her scores.

How can I help my child?

The NCCA has developed some online resources to help you to support your child's learning in primary school. Many of these are available in various languages and new resources are regularly added to the parents' page at **www.ncca.ie/parents**. Take a look at the resources for your child's class.

