

Information for School Principals

Revised Best Start Kindergarten Assessment **Preschool trial 17 August – 24 August**

The Department of Education is revising the current Best Start Kindergarten assessment. The revised Best Start Kindergarten assessment is being made available progressively to all NSW primary schools from 2018.

The revised assessment will:

- include some new and revised items that better reflect current literacy and numeracy research;
- enable teachers to capture data at the item level to assist teachers to more quickly and accurately identify a student's level of skill and knowledge
- enable teachers to capture student responses directly into a tablet, device or desktop computer

The trial of the revised Best Start is being conducted from Monday 17 August to Friday 24 August, 2017. The teacher feedback provided through this trial is an important step towards finalising the Best Start Kindergarten assessment ready for use in 2018 by Early Action for Success Schools and all schools in 2019.

The trial is being conducted in the 100 NSW Department of Education preschools. One teacher from each school is being asked to conduct Best Start with 6 students currently enrolled in the preschool and due to start school in 2018.

Selecting your teacher

Each school is being asked to nominate one kindergarten teacher who has previously administered the Best Start Kindergarten assessment. The teacher should be a current or recent kindergarten teacher (not the preschool teacher).

Selecting students

Six students should be selected from the preschool to complete Best Start. Parent permissions and an information sheet are included. Where possible, priority should be given to students who have already turned 5 this year. Preschool teachers should also consider students current capacity to participate in a one to one activity with an unfamiliar adult.

Support for schools

Funding for three days teacher relief will be provided to support each teacher's involvement in the trial.

Participating teachers will be provided with professional learning to develop understanding of the revised Best Start Kindergarten assessment. A full day professional learning event will be held on **Thursday 10 August, 2017** at the Mercure Sydney International Airport. The conference costs including travel and accommodation will be provided for schools.

The second and third days are provided to release the teacher to conduct the Best Start Kindergarten assessment in the school during the trial week and complete administrative tasks related to the trial.

Teacher nomination and registration for the conference can be completed at <https://www.regodirect.com.au/beststart2017trial/>. Only one teacher per school will be accepted. Schools are requested to provide teacher nominations and registration by **Friday 28 July, 2017**.

For further information about the trial please contact Sue Ross, R/Coordinator, Early Learning on 9266 8165 or sue.ross2@det.nsw.edu.au.