

Children's Progress Academic Assessment FAQ for Homeschool



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1. What kind of assessment is the CPAA?

The CPAA is:	The CPAA is NOT:
Formative (assessment <i>FOR</i> learning)	Summative (assessment <i>OF</i> learning; "high stakes testing")
Adaptive (questions adjust automatically to offer an appropriate level of challenge)	Linear (questions follow in a "one size fits all" sequence)
Computer-based (can be administered to a whole class or individual students)	Paper-based, individually administered or administered on a handheld device
Custom-designed for PK-3	For all grades
Criterion-referenced (student performance is compared to specific learning objectives [i.e. state standards])	Norm-referenced (student performance is compared to the performance of a group)
Dynamic (incorrect responses are followed by verbal and/or visual scaffolding, much in the way that content is taught in the classroom)	Static (no feedback is given to the child)

2. Which grades is it for?

Pre-K – Grade 3

3. Is it geared toward a specific student population?

EVERY student can benefit from the CPAA. Since the assessment adjusts instantly to each response, each student is challenged appropriately at his or her level, whether he or she is in the general education, special education, or gifted and talented population. The CPAA can be used as little as three times a year for students who are on track, or more frequently (six or even nine times a year) for students who are at-risk, and in need of progress monitoring.

4. Can it be used with Spanish-speaking English Language Learners?

YES. A Spanish-language version (of the full assessment - literacy and math) is available for ELL students in Pre-K - 2. This version is ideal to use with non-native English speakers to distinguish academic skills from language acquisition issues. It can also be used in tandem with the English-language version.

5. Is it developmentally appropriate?

YES. The CPAA was designed to adhere closely to developmental guidelines established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). You can read more about its alignment to these guidelines [here](#). The length and content of the assessment have been vetted with early childhood experts to ensure appropriateness. Moreover, students are only expected to use point-and-click skills (no dragging or keyboard use required). A mousing pre-screener is built in to ensure accurate results for Pre-K and K students.

6. How long does it take?

On average, the assessment takes 20-30 minutes in grades K-3 and 15 minutes in Pre-K. Note that since it is adaptive and dynamic, no two students take the same exact path through the bank of questions. Depending on performance, some students will take more or less time to complete the assessment.

7. What happens if we need to take a break? Can we continue later?

YES. You can pause or stop the assessment at any time. Whenever the student is logged back in, the CPAA will pick up *exactly* where he or she left off, without impacting the score.

8. How often should it be administered?

We recommend using the CPAA for screening/benchmarking three times a year (and thus provide three separate content banks – for the fall, winter, and spring). In addition, you may administer the CPAA more frequently for progress monitoring (up to every 3-4 weeks for those students who are at-risk and whose progress you'd like to track more closely).

9. Is it aligned to my state standards?

YES. The CPAA has been designed to align with the Common Core Standards, as well as the rigorous standards set forth by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). Each state version was then aligned to specific states' learning goals so that reports allow teachers to see immediately 1) how each student performed, 2) how that compares to a specific standard and 3) what activity can help him/her improve, be challenged or get more practice.

10. Which skills does it assess?

Click [here](#) to see an overview of the early literacy and mathematics content covered by the CPAA.

11. How soon can I see the results?

INSTANTLY. All reports are web-based and update in real-time, so you can see results (and act on them) as soon as students complete an assessment. In fact, you can even view partially completed reports for interrupted assessments.

12. Will it provide practical suggestions to help my child work on specific skills?

YES. Teacher/Parent reports include recommended activities for individual students, based on performance.

13. Will it help me track my child's progress?

YES. CPAA progress reports can be viewed in aggregate for early literacy and mathematics or disaggregated by learning concept, both for the current school year and over the years.

14. Will it help my child perform better on state tests?

While the CPAA isn't explicitly a test prep program, it does allow you to hone in on specific skills that students need to master in order to be successful come testing day. If you follow the CPAA's recommendations for remediation, then YES, the CPAA will help increase your child's performance on state tests.

15. Who else is using it?

The CPAA has been used by schools, districts, state agencies and early childhood centers nationwide. We serve home schools, public, charter and independent institutions.

16. Is it easy to use?

YES. The assessment is easy to install (through a link). Reports are web-based and securely viewable from any computer with internet access. User guides and video tutorials are available within the reports to remind parents about the best practice uses for each report page.

17. Is training available?

YES, web-based training is available.

18. What are the hardware & software requirements?

- Hardware: All you need is a computer (Mac or PC), internet connection, mouse and headphones (optional).
- Software: Reports are web-based and securely viewable from any computer.