

# The Kindergarten Chronicles

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## NEPF Standard 5: Assessment is Integrated into Instruction

Assessment has two fundamental functions: The first is to collect evidence after instruction to determine a score/grade. These summative assessments “sum up” what students have learned. End of the unit, end of semester, and standardized assessments fall into this category. The second purpose of assessment is to provide ongoing feedback for both teachers and students that informs teaching and learning. Although summative assessment is important for student promotion and accountability, formative assessment is a vital part of everyday instruction and the focus of NEPF Standard 5. The goal of formative assessment is to monitor student learning, so teachers can provide ongoing feedback to their students. Formative assessment is used by both teachers and students to gather evidence of learning through multiple strategies, to engage students in monitoring their own learning, and to improve teaching and learning based on data and feedback. In short, formative assessment provides teachers with the information necessary to distinguish between what they have taught and what the students have actually learned. The chart below shows the differences between summative and formative assessment. Click [here](#) to view the NCTE Position Statement titled *Formative Assessment That Truly Informs Instruction*.

	Formative Assessment	Summative Assessment
Purpose	To improve instruction and provide student feedback	To measure student competency
When administered	Ongoing	End of unit or course
How students use the results	To self-monitor understanding/learning	To gauge their progress toward course or grade level goals and benchmarks
How teachers use the results	To check for understanding and plan accordingly	For grades and promotion

Even though the purpose of formative assessment is to gauge student learning to inform teaching, when and how it is used depends on the lesson objective at any given point during the learning. For example, before starting a lesson or unit, teachers should use pre-assessment strategies to determine what students already know (background knowledge) and what they need to know in order to connect to the new information. During the lesson, teachers use formative assessment strategies to continually check for understanding and guide instruction. After the lesson is completed, formative assessment is used to determine what the students have actually learned. Teachers can then make responsive decisions based on student feedback. They may need to reteach all or part of the concept using an alternate modality, or create differentiated groups, or provide individual remediation. Below are some strategies that can be used for formative assessment in your kindergarten classroom.

**ABC Preview/Review:** Give students (individuals, small groups, or whole class) an ABC chart. Students brainstorm/write terms or associations related to the desired topic that begin with each letter of the alphabet. Begin study of the topic. Revisit the chart during the unit and add to the chart. Use as a review at the end of the unit. The teacher may need to write the ideas for kinder students.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
V	W	X	Y	X		

**Quick-Draws:** Select a “big idea” or major concept within your lesson. Students reflect on the meaning of the concept and create a visual that represents the concept. Students share and explain their image.

**Sentence Synthesis:** Give students three or four key words and the students write or dictate a sentence utilizing the keywords to synthesize their understanding of the concept.

**Exit Statements:** “Ticket out the Door” activities are an ideal way to summarize and have closure for a lesson when there are only a few minutes to spare. Students write something brief and related to the day’s lesson. Students can reflect on, connect to, and/or summarize what they have learned. Click [here](#) for *40 Ways to Leave a Lesson*.

### Examples:

- Name one (two, three) important thing(s) you learned in class today.
- Write one question about today’s content—something that left you puzzled.
- How does what you learned today connect to \_\_\_\_\_?

### RPDP’s Annual Summer Institute

To sign up for classes, please follow the steps below. I know this is different than what some of you are use to when taking our classes. However, we are now using a tracking system to keep track of CUs and class credits.

<https://goo.gl/ovg4oA>

Once you open the link, follow these steps:

1. Click on the Elementary Literacy “road sign.”
2. Then click on the blue session one and session two buttons to see the menu of classes being offered during that time slot.
3. Lastly, click on the blue “click here to register button.”



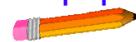
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