

# Understanding the Reading Common Assessment Activity


## Information for Parents and whānau

**To pass the Co-requisite using the Common Assessment Activities a student must gain Literacy and Numeracy.**

**To gain Literacy a student must pass both the Reading test and the Writing test. They are separate tests, each is worth five credits, for a total of 10 Literacy credits.**

**To gain Numeracy a student only needs to pass the Numeracy test as this one test is worth 10 credits.**

After sitting the Common Assessment Activities (CAAs) your child will receive results for any assessment they do not achieve. The table below is an example:

Read to make sense of the written text.					
No Evidence	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Minimal Evidence	Weak Evidence	Sufficient Evidence	Strong Evidence	
Read the written text with critical awareness.					
No Evidence	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Minimal Evidence	Weak Evidence	Sufficient Evidence	Strong Evidence	
Read different written texts for different purposes.					
No Evidence	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Minimal Evidence	Weak Evidence	Sufficient Evidence	Strong Evidence	
Result  Not achieved					

There will be a separate results table for each Common Assessment Activity (CAA); one for Reading, one for Writing and one for Numeracy. There are no results tables for assessments that are achieved. You and your student should check every assessment result.

The above table is an example of a Reading result. It shows there are three outcomes to achieve:

- Read to make sense of the written text
- Read the written text with critical awareness
- Read different texts for different purposes

To achieve Reading a student must provide sufficient evidence and/or strong evidence for all three outcomes. If a student provides no evidence, minimal evidence or weak evidence for any one of the outcomes they will receive a Not achieved result, as shown in the table above. Understanding your child's strengths and weaknesses will help you support their particular learning needs.

# What can you do to help your child prepare for their Reading Common Assessment Activity?

## 1. Speak to your child's teacher.

Your child's teacher knows the learning that your child needs to be successful in the Reading CAA. They can help guide you on how best to help your child with advice and resources.

## 2. Family and whānau can help to develop their child's reading skills.

Here are some ideas on how you can help to strengthen your child's reading skills:

- Speak to your child about your own reading. It is important that your child sees you as a reader and you talk about what you are reading.
- Read in the language that works best for you.
- Help them to find suitable reading material. This could be recipes, travel guides, magazines, information about a sport, hobby or interest, or a novel to name a few.
- Take your child to the library and /or bookshop to select suitable reading materials.
- Ask your child about their favourite character, their opinion, their prediction, after they have read something.
- Watch a movie together and then read the book. Talk about the similarities and differences. Which did they prefer? Why?
- Encourage your child to research topics and answer questions online. Talk with them about their answers. How do they know the information is reliable?
- Listen to audiobooks together. Discuss the ideas and characters. What life lessons is the author trying to share? Do you agree with these?

## 3. Students can develop their own reading skills.

Here are some ideas on how your child can strengthen their own reading skills:

- Reading like any skill takes practise. Reading continuously just half an hour a day can make a difference to reading skills. Pick a time to read every day and stick to it. Hint: A half hour before lights out at night can be an easy time to remember.
- Reading is not all about long books. Try newspaper articles, online blogs, travel diaries, cooking recipes, magazines, reviews of products or games to name a few.
- Find out what your friends are reading and if it sounds interesting, ask to borrow it when they are done.
- Ever tried an audio book? They are books that are recorded so you can listen to them. Speak to your local library or search online.
- Do you have a favourite reality television star? Ever wondered what their real life is like? Search online and find out three things you did not know about them. Do you trust the source?
- There are a range of resources that have been developed to help improve your reading skills. They come in book-form as well as online. Examples of these are:

[Literacy on Pathways Awarua](#)  
[Readtheory.org](#)

Your teacher will be able to suggest others that can help you.