The Alberta Teachers' Association

Early Childhood Education Council
Alberta Teachers' Association
A specialist council for ECS and grades 1, 2 and 3 teachers

ECEC Position Statement

Kindergarten Provincial Literacy and Numeracy Screening Assessments

The Early Childhood Education Council, a specialist council of the Alberta Teachers' Association, **strongly opposes** the Alberta Government's mandated literacy and numeracy assessments for Kindergarten children. These standardized assessments are developmentally inappropriate and fail to account for the diverse abilities and learning rates of this age group. They limit children's ability to demonstrate their full potential, offer little meaningful context, and assess skills exceeding the Kindergarten Curriculum's developmental level.

The one-on-one administration of these screening assessments is time consuming, taking away from valuable instructional time. Standardized assessments can also cause undue stress and lead to mislabeling children. Through ongoing observation, assessment, and nurturing relationships, teachers identify children's strengths and needs, rendering this assessment screener data redundant.

Teachers create welcoming and child-centered environments to offer Kindergarten children the best start in their educational journey. In addition to literacy and numeracy skills, they support children's holistic development through playful learning approaches that address their cognitive, physical, social, and emotional needs.

Research states that children learn best through play and teachers are encouraged to **prioritize play-based learning** to support children's holistic development over premature academic metrics.