

Preparation for learning, teaching and assessing primary mathematics

As outlined in [Preparation for Teaching and Learning – Guidance for All Primary and Special Schools](#), preparation is invisible, visible and recorded; all of which are complementary and necessary in providing appropriately playful and engaging learning experiences for children. Such preparation supports the provision of rich learning environments, worthwhile learning experiences and meaningful assessment.

Considered preparation can help teachers to attend to the mathematical learning of every child, facilitate purposeful enactment of the curriculum and support decision-making about pedagogy. When preparing for learning in primary mathematics, it is important to strike a balance between providing opportunities for targeted and structured learning; and allowing for openness and space to explore unanticipated learning moments.

Key considerations to support and inform preparation for learning, teaching and assessing mathematics in the classroom

The child	The curriculum	Pedagogy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do I know about the strengths, needs, interests and abilities of each child? • What is the scope and scale of strengths, needs and interests across the class/group? • How can I build on children’s prior learning in this area? • What learning experiences might this class/group find most engaging? • What opportunities might allow children to best represent, express and demonstrate their learning? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Learning Outcome[s] will I select and what will be the focus of new learning? • What knowledge, skills and dispositions will be important for children to develop as they work towards this Learning Outcome[s]? • What supports might be useful to support my thinking and decision-making? • How can I provide opportunities for understanding and connecting; communicating; reasoning; and applying and problem solving? • What links can I help to make with other curriculum areas? What opportunities can I provide for help reinforce, consolidate and apply the learning in practical ways? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What pedagogical practices will best promote and support learning? • How might the learning environment be organised to optimise learning? • What activities, tasks and/or tools might enhance the learning experience? • As a teacher, how will my role need to adapt and change to best support the children at different stages throughout the learning experience? • How will I know that the children have made progress with their learning? What approaches and resources might be most useful to assess learning?