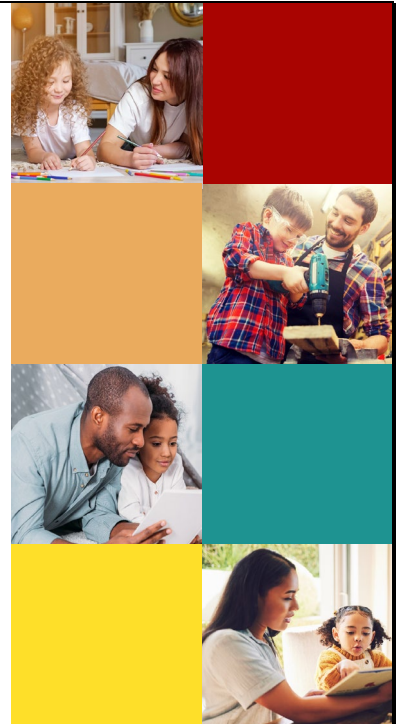


Evaluations that Nurture Growth

with Blair Lee



Evaluation - Academic work, including vocational or athletic skills, a learner receives feedback about. The work can be substantial, such as a research paper or an exam. Or it can be smaller in scope, such as a single math problem or the correct spelling of a word.



The way you approach **evaluations** is a key part of the demonstration of **your core philosophy of how learning best happens.**

- Mirrors your beliefs about learning.
- Prioritizes your learner's individual needs.
- Encourages ownership and self-reflection.



The Benefits of Embracing Evaluation as a Tool for Academic Growth

- Homeschoolers are in a better position to get evaluations right.

1. A mono-approach is not learner-centered.
2. A focus on learning instead of “getting through the material.”
3. Better able to adapt evaluative process to benefit one learner.

- Catalysts for growth or triggers that shut kids down or make them surly?

- It starts with your mindset.





Evaluations are not the destination; they are the map.

Know Your Purpose

ASSESS FOR UNDERSTANDING

Purposeful evaluation assesses understanding and isn't given before some understanding of the material is achieved.

PRIORITIZE LEARNING

Prioritize instructional support and guidance over evaluation when learners lack understanding.



The starting place for evaluating is to know, big picture, why you are evaluating your learners work. What is the purpose? I do not mean small picture by that. I mean big picture. Take 15 seconds and jot down your response.

On a scale of 1-10 how effective are your evaluations at achieving this? Be fair with your response.

You get to the end of a chapter in math and there is a quiz. You do not think your learner has mastered the concepts or material. What do you do?

- Give your child the test in the hopes that you're wrong about how well they learned the material.
- Make a casual assessment and try to determine where the "holes" in understanding are providing tutoring before having your child take the test.
- Skip the test and go on to the next chapter's material.

Focus on Learning

- Growth-oriented evaluations treat assessments as diagnostic tools.
- Shift focus from a graded and done mentality to understanding and mastery.
- “Correct or incorrect” evaluations run counter to what it means to value learning.



Evaluate a limited number of tasks.



Include holistic evaluations.



Pay attention to cognitive load.



Cognitive load refers to the amount of information a person can handle at a time.



Combine a Task-Oriented & Holistic Approach

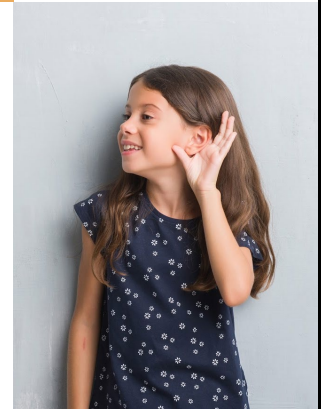
Route Planning Using Evaluations


- Evaluations provide a roadmap for what to work on next.
- Tailor instruction based on evaluation insights to ensure meaningful understanding.



Evaluate Learning Skills

- Being skilled at learning is essential for anyone who is a lifelong learner.
- Intentionally teach the learning skills your child needs in a focused and timely way.
- Focus on one or two learning skills at a time to facilitate mastery.
- Evaluate these skills as if your child were taking a class in them.






Keep It Positive

PERSONALIZED
Feedback should be constructive and personalized.

FOCUSED ON GROWTH
A growth mindset starts here, with evaluations focused on growth.

NO ONE STAR REVIEWS
Avoid a “red pen” mentality.



A mastery approach for learning is an instructional strategy in line with a learner centered educational philosophy. A mastery approach emphasizes understanding over the pace of progress.

- You receive a completed assignment .
- You evaluate it for the specific tasks you're working on.
- You also evaluate holistically looking at mastery.
- Don't get frustrated if your student misses something you thought they had mastered.
- Provide feedback for your learner.
- If they miss something, give them the opportunity to learn what they missed and resubmit their work.
- Do not penalize learners who resubmit material.

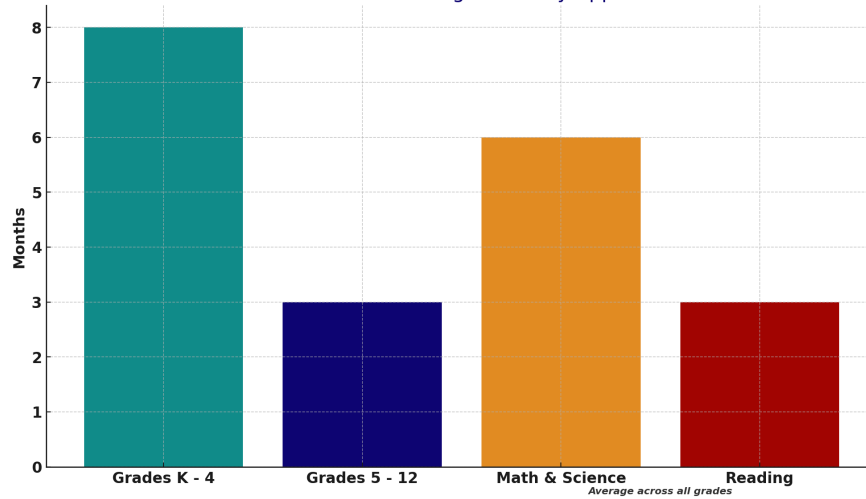


Use a Mastery Approach

- The benefits of a mastery approach.
- Why the benefits?
 - Deeper understanding and retention of content.
 - Increase student motivation and confidence
 - Reduced gaps.
- Prioritizes deep understanding and the growth of the learner over grades and a timeline.



The Benefits of Using a Mastery Approach



EducationEndowmentFoundation.org

Include Your Learner

- Share evaluation criteria with your learner.
- Involve learners in setting goals for improvement and in the evaluative process.
- A mastery approach includes learners.



Anxiety around Evaluations

- Acknowledge and address potential anxiety to create a supportive environment.
- Anxiety affects performance.
- Choose evaluative methods that minimize anxiety.
- Involve your child in the evaluation process and use a holistic approach.



Test-Taking 101

- Teach test-taking skills as a learning skill.
- Important for learners with test anxiety.
- Involve your learner.
- If your learner qualifies for accommodations, use those when working on this skill.





Use Evaluations to Nurture Growth

THANK YOU!

Blair Lee

www.SEAHomeschoolers.com

- Author of books on science and learning
- Educator
- Public Speaker
- Community Organizer



EMAIL

Blair@SEAHomeschoolers.com

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