

AUSTRALIA

YEARS 3 · 5 · 7 · 9

2026 PARENT GUIDE

AIRBOTIX FAMILY GUIDES

Understanding Your Child's Australian NAPLAN Report

A calm parent guide to the black dot, national comparison and next conversation

Start with your child's black dot, then read the national reference, the five-area pattern and the classroom evidence.

Verified 29 August 2026

Australian parents and carers of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9



01

Read the report in this order

NAPLAN is not pass or fail, and there is no single overall score to find. The report presents **Numeracy, Reading, Writing, Spelling, and Grammar and punctuation** separately.

1. Find your child's **black dot** in each area. 2. Read the **black triangle** and **light shaded rectangle** as national references. 3. Read the four proficiency levels. 4. Compare your child's five-area pattern with classroom work and teacher feedback.

The question	The report can help with	It cannot answer alone
Where did my child perform in each area?	Test-day result, level and national reference	Their whole ability, effort or future
What deserves a closer look?	A relative strength or lower area	A diagnosis or best intervention
What should we do next?	A starting point for discussion	A school choice or admission outcome

02

The three visual markers

The **black dot** is your child's result in that assessment area. It is not a number of correct answers, a percentile or an admission probability.

The **black triangle** is the national average for students in the same year level. The **light shaded rectangle** is the range of achievement for the middle 60% of students in that year level. It may look grey in a black-and-white printout, so use the legend and shape rather than colour alone.

If the black dot is...	A careful description	Do not turn it into...
above the triangle	above the national same-year average on this test	proof of mastery of every year-level skill
inside the rectangle	within the national middle 60% range	a reason to ignore a concern
below a reference	a prompt for classroom evidence and discussion	a label about ability

03

The four proficiency levels

Level	Official meaning in parent language	Helpful next question
Exceeding	Result exceeds expectations at the time of testing	What appropriately challenging task could extend this?
Strong	Meets challenging but reasonable expectations	Which strengths should we keep building?
Developing	Working towards expectations	Which specific skill and classroom task should we focus on?
Needs additional support	Not yet achieving expected outcomes and likely to need extra support	What support is already in place, and when will we review it?

Strong means the student meets the expected standard; it is not a near miss. Students in any level can still need support in a particular area. The report's later skill summary describes what students at a level typically demonstrate; it is not an individual diagnostic checklist.

04

Read position and level together

Two students may both be in the same proficiency level but sit in different parts of it. That can help frame a teacher conversation, but it does not create a precise diagnosis. Never convert a position to IQ, a selective-school probability, ATAR or a future pathway.

NAPLAN is a snapshot of selected literacy and numeracy learning on the test day. Its useful role is to help families ask what classroom evidence says next.

05

Compare the five areas, not just the labels

Area	Level	Relative to national average	Matches school work?	Ask the teacher
Numeracy		above / near / below		
Reading		above / near / below		
Writing		above / near / below		
Spelling		above / near / below		
Grammar and punctuation		above / near / below		

Look for a clear strength, a relative lower area, or a pattern that needs context — for example, stronger reading than writing. These are different assessment areas, not contradictions. Compare your child's own pattern before comparing siblings, classmates or social-media posts.

06

Comparing reports across years

The current arrangement allows families to compare reports from **2023 onwards**. In particular, the official 2026 parent information says Years 5, 7 and 9 families can compare 2024 and 2026 proficiency levels, national-average position and middle-60% position.

- Do not directly compare 2008–2022 results with 2023 onwards: the scale changed and testing moved from Term 2 to Term 1.
- The same level in a later NAPLAN year can still represent progress because the required skills become more difficult.
- Discuss a change with classroom work and teacher assessment rather than treating one movement as a verdict.

07

Treat 2026 Writing carefully

The 2026 official parent information says some students experienced disruptions during the online writing test because of connectivity issues. If your child's report includes a writing caveat:

- ☐ read the exact report wording;
- ☐ ask the school whether a disruption was recorded;
- ☐ compare the result with recent classroom writing and teacher feedback;
- ☐ ask what evidence will be used next if the result does not match usual work;
- ☐ do not guess how much any disruption changed a result.

Year 3 students complete the writing test on paper. A small number of other students may complete paper tests where an alternative curriculum or accessibility reason applies.

08

Take these three questions to school

1. **Does this pattern match classroom evidence?** “This NAPLAN area looks relatively higher/lower. Does that match class work and other school assessments?” 2. **Which specific skill matters next?** “Could you name one or two skills and show the sort of classroom task my child will use?” 3. **How will we check progress?** “Over the next 6–10 weeks, what will school and home do, and what work or observation will we review?”

Write down one shared next step: “We noticed <NAPLAN signal>; classroom evidence is <consistent / unclear / different>; by <date> we will <action> and review <work / assessment / observation>.”

Ten-minute parent checklist

- ☐ I have not looked for a non-existent overall score or treated NAPLAN as pass/fail.
- ☐ I have recorded the five areas separately.
- ☐ I know the triangle is the national same-year average and the rectangle is the middle 60% range.
- ☐ I have compared my child's own pattern before making comparisons with others.
- ☐ I have not converted a dot position into a percentile, diagnosis, admission chance or prediction.
- ☐ I have kept 2008–2022 separate from 2023 onwards.
- ☐ I know the same later-year level can still mean progress.
- ☐ I will use the 2026 writing caveat carefully if it appears.
- ☐ I am taking three concrete questions to my child's teacher.
- ☐ I will not share an identifiable individual report publicly.

Official sources and boundaries

Verified 29 August 2026:

- [2026 Individual Student Report information for parents and carers ↗](#)
- [NAPLAN results, reports and performance FAQ ↗](#)

Individual student reports are confidential. If a report is missing, contact the school where the child sat the test; ACARA cannot arrange a replacement directly for a parent or carer. This guide is general education information, not an individual learning diagnosis, school-admission assessment or professional advice. Use the formal report, current official guidance, your child's work and teacher feedback.



About Airbotix Family Guides

Airbotix Family Guides turn official information into calm, practical parent questions and checklists. A child's growth is bigger than one report: classroom reading, writing, mathematical thinking and project work all offer useful evidence. Airbotix activities may be an optional creative setting, but they do not replace school support and make no promise about NAPLAN levels, admission or outcomes.

For more guides, visit airbotix.ai/resources ↗. For Airbotix courses, activities or partnerships, contact Rain; for an individual NAPLAN result, contact your child's school and teacher.

NEXT STEP

Use the report for a better teacher conversation

Check the official explanation first, then use your child's school work and teacher feedback to decide the next step.

hello@airbotix.ai

Rain · Sales: 0421-672-555

WEBSITE

Airbotix Resources

Explore more practical Family Guides for Australian parents.



airbotix.ai/resources/australia-naplan-report-guide-en/

SALES

Contact Rain

Ask about Airbotix courses, activities or partnerships. We do not provide NAPLAN diagnosis or admission advice.



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SOURCE

Official 2026 explanation

Open NAP/ACARA's Individual Student Report information for parents and carers.



nap.edu.au