

# AABL

## What to Expect Guide

Candidates for PreK to Grade 1



**AABL** ADMISSION ASSESSMENT  
FOR BEGINNING LEARNERS

The only authorized guide produced by ERB.

If you have any questions, please contact AABL Operations at  
800 - 446 - 0320 or send an email to [AABLHelp@erblearn.org](mailto:AABLHelp@erblearn.org).

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## What to Expect on AABL

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## What to Expect on AABL

### General Introduction

*AABL is designed to measure reasoning and achievement skills of children ages 4-6 seeking admission to PreK/Jr. Kindergarten – Grade 1 in independent schools.*

**Dear Parent,**

Your child is going to take the AABL (Admission Assessment for Beginning Learners) sometime soon, and we hope that this guide helps him or her become familiar with the assessment.

We hope that after spending some time with this guide, your child knows more about what to expect on assessment day and feels comfortable with the types of questions and directions on AABL. We wish you and your child the best of luck as you go on this exciting educational adventure.

With warm regards,

**The AABL Staff**



## What to Expect on AABL

### Description of AABL

AABL is the admission assessment of choice for a select group of independent schools throughout the country. It was developed by ERB (Educational Records Bureau) along with a team of experts from its member schools as part of their admission process. AABL aligns with national standards including those of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), Common Core, and the New York State PreK and Kindergarten standards.

The assessment is administered on an iPad and is intended for children who are a minimum of 4 years of age seeking admission to PreK through Grade 1.

- Children applying to PreK will take the test in a 1:1\* setting.
- Children applying to Kindergarten will take the test in a 5:1\* setting.
- Children applying to First Grade will take the test in a 6:1\* setting.

\*These ratios denote the maximum number of students for each applicant group. There are times when smaller groups are assembled.

## What to Expect on AABL

### Description of AABL CONTINUED

AABL consists of two sections: Reasoning and Achievement, with each section encompassing two subsections: Reasoning includes Verbal and Quantitative Reasoning and Achievement includes Early Literacy and Mathematics.

- **Verbal Reasoning** assesses a child's ability to reason and solve problems that are presented in pictures and are not dependent upon written text. The three major concepts within the Verbal Reasoning domain include Verbal Analogies, Verbal Classification, and Verbal Inference/Deductive Reasoning.
- **Quantitative Reasoning** assesses a child's ability to use numbers and numerical concepts in order to solve problems. Questions may require children to recognize and apply a numerical operation, infer or deduce what a particular problem entails, compare and contrast quantities, as well as analyze, compare, or predict conclusions. The major concepts within the Quantitative Reasoning domain include Analogies, Patterns and Series, and Quantitative Inference/Deductive Reasoning.
- **Early Literacy** contains the major concepts of Phonological & Phonemic Awareness, Phonics & Word Identification, Reading Comprehension, and Writing Conventions. These major concepts are further divided into specific sub-concepts that target skills within the major concepts. For example, Phonological and Phonemic awareness include the sub-concepts of Rhyming, Blending, Phonemic Isolation, and Phonemic Manipulation.
- **Mathematics** contains three major concepts Number Sense, Geometry & Measurement, and Operations, which are also divided into sub-concepts. For example, Number Sense includes the six sub-concepts of Number Identification, Number Comparison, Number Order, Ordinal Terms, Quantity Comparison, and Quantity Identification.

## What to Expect on AABL

### Preparation for AABL

#### Demonstration Video

Families are encouraged to view the online demonstration video found in the ERB Admission Portal at [www.erblearn.org/aabl-for-families](http://www.erblearn.org/aabl-for-families). This video was created to help provide parents with:

- Insight into the types of questions that are included on AABL.
- A demonstration of an iPad administration.
- An opportunity to view what AABL iPad screens look like.
- A demonstration of the physical responses required for AABL (tap answer, touch screen, drag and drop).

The questions in the demonstration video are not the same ones that your child will find on the real assessment, but they are similar to those questions and have been written by the same people who wrote the actual AABL items. Please be sure to pay particular attention to all the directions given in the video, especially the computer navigational directions, as AABL is administered on an iPad and could be unlike any experience your child may have had in the past.

The demonstration video is not intended for coaching or prepping for AABL. ERB recommends that parents watch the video with their child to provide additional explanations of the questions and answers.

AABL may not be taken for practice; it may be taken only for the purpose of providing scores to participating schools as part of the admission process.

## What to Expect on AABL

### Preparation for AABL CONTINUED

#### Navigation Bar

AABL begins with a short tutorial that demonstrates to children how to respond to the items in the assessment using the buttons shown below. Parents and guardians are encouraged to show their child the following images of AABL buttons and to read the accompanying directions aloud to familiarize their child with how to respond to the AABL items.

*You can hear the question again by tapping the orange repeat button.*



*Once you have made your choice, you must tap the white arrow in the green circle to move to the next activity.*



## What to Expect on AABL

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Why is AABL required?

The school to which your child is applying has asked for AABL scores or they have stated that they accept AABL scores as part of the admission process. The school may look at many items along with AABL scores, including the application, current school records, and notes from an interview and/or a playgroup session. All parts of the admission process, including AABL scores, help the school and family determine the best school match.

#### What happens to my child's scores?

After your child takes AABL, his or her answers are then computer scored. Within three to five business days, ERB uploads the scores to the parent and school(s) listed on the Admission Portal. Only schools that are listed by the parent see the scores.

#### What is included on the score report?

AABL scores are designed to help schools assess a child's strengths in four multiple-choice sections compared to other children the same age. These sections are: Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, Early Literacy, and Mathematics.

The overall score profile provides information about the child's performance on the four sections mentioned above. The scores on these sections are reported as raw scores, scaled scores, percentile ranks, overall scaled score, and stanines with reference to AABL norms. Information about interpreting your child's score report, can be found at [www.erblearn.org/aabl-for-families](http://www.erblearn.org/aabl-for-families).



## What to Expect on AABL

### Frequently Asked Questions CONTINUED

#### Who will see the report?

At the time of registration, parents select up to six schools where they want to send the score report. Only the schools listed by the parent receive the report. Parents and schools see the same report.

#### How do I register?

Registration takes place through the ERB Admission Portal. Parents can access this portal by visiting [www.erblearn.org/aabl-for-families](http://www.erblearn.org/aabl-for-families). From the portal, parents create an account by providing the requested information. Parents can then schedule an AABL appointment through their account. After testing, score reports are posted to the parent account.

#### Still have questions?

We're here to help! Please contact AABL Operations with any additional questions.



800 - 446 - 0320



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