

# AABL

## QUICK FACTS GUIDE



**AABL** ADMISSION ASSESSMENT  
FOR BEGINNING LEARNERS

2016–2017

[www.erblearn.org](http://www.erblearn.org)

# How to Schedule

---

1. Review school application deadlines to ensure that you schedule your child's testing date appropriately.
2. Visit <https://admission.erblearn.org> to schedule an appointment and create your online account.
3. Select the schools to which you would like a copy of your child's score report sent.
4. Watch for a confirmation email to verify test center location, date, and check-in time.
5. Approximately three to five business days after the assessment, visit your online account to retrieve your child's score report.

## Assessment Fees

---

### **\$65 per applicant**

To cancel or reschedule your appointment, please call the AABL Operations Office at 1 (800) 446-0320. There is a \$25 service fee to cancel or reschedule. This fee is deducted from all refunds.

## Questions?

---

For more information about AABL, please visit us online at [www.erblearn.org/aabl](http://www.erblearn.org/aabl) or contact the AABL Operations Office at 1 (800) 446-0320 or [AABLOperations@erblearn.org](mailto:AABLOperations@erblearn.org).

## Introduction to AABL

---

ERB's AABL (Admission Assessment for Beginning Learners) was developed with the help of national and local experts in the field of early childhood development and gifted education. AABL is a child-friendly assessment that provides insight into a child's ability in Reasoning and Achievement. It was designed to help schools assess a child's strengths as compared to other children applying to the same grade. As with any assessment, a child's AABL scores are only one piece of the overall admission process.

### About ERB

For over 85 years, ERB (Educational Records Bureau) has provided admission, achievement, and instructional services to more than 2,000 member schools and districts around the world. The not-for-profit is a trusted resource for programs that inform admission decisions as well as support curriculum and instruction for PreK to Grade 12 students. For more information, please visit [www.erblearn.org](http://www.erblearn.org).

### Policies

Students cannot take AABL for practice. A child can only take AABL once within a six-month period. If AABL is administered to a child twice over a six-month period, ERB does not report the results of the second test or refund the testing fee. All children must be a minimum of four years of age at the time of testing.



## What is AABL?

---

AABL consists of two main sections, Reasoning and Achievement, that are further divided into two subsections. Each of these four subsections ask questions designed to assess a student's ability to:

### Verbal Reasoning

- › Analyze relationships between two different ideas presented in pictures by identifying their shared characteristics.
- › Make comparisons and group various objects based on their common properties.
- › Extract explicit information to infer and interpret situations; use deductive reasoning.

### Early Literacy

- › Blend phonemes into words and recognize phonemes in isolation.
- › Manipulate phonemes.
- › Rhyme and letter-sound knowledge.
- › Decode words.
- › Read words and sentences.

### Quantitative Reasoning

- › Recognize and apply addition, subtraction, or another numerical concept.
- › Infer or deduce solutions to novel problems.
- › Compare and contrast quantities.
- › Identify shapes and patterns.

### Mathematics

- › Recognize and name numbers.
- › Count and skip count.
- › Determine ordinal position.
- › Add and subtract.
- › Identify basic shapes.
- › Recognize common measurement tools.

## What to Expect on AABL

---

A free *What to Expect on AABL* video and guide is available online at [www.erblearn.org/parents/admissions-testing-aabl](http://www.erblearn.org/parents/admissions-testing-aabl). This information is useful to set the stage for your child prior to assessment day.

### How is AABL Administered?

AABL is administered using test center provided iPads with instructions delivered via child-sized headphones. AABL is untimed and takes approximately 30 to 50 minutes to complete, including a short break halfway through the assessment. It is administered individually or in small groups.

A trained AABL administrator greets students in a reception area and then escorts them to the assessment room. Only students and the administrator are permitted in the assessment room.

Once in the assessment room, the administrator guides students through an interactive iPad tutorial that teaches them how to use the iPad, respond to the questions, and when to provide answers. The administrator remains in the assessment room at all times to assist students.

AABL is administered at ERB-approved locations nationwide, as well as at the ERB office located at 470 Park Avenue South in New York City.

## Preparing for AABL

---

Families should plan to arrive at the test center by the check-in time listed in the verification email sent from the ERB Admission Portal. Late arrivals are required to reschedule for another date and time. External tutoring is neither recommended nor necessary.

## What to Tell Your Child

- › Listen very carefully to the instructions given by the test administrator.
- › You are not expected to answer every question. As with any test, just try to do your very best.
- › You will receive a point for every correct answer. Points are not deducted for incorrect answers.

## Testing with Accommodations

ERB makes every effort to accommodate students who are unable to take AABL under standard administration conditions due to documented learning differences or challenges. For more information, please contact [AABLOperations@erblearn.org](mailto:AABLOperations@erblearn.org).

## Fee Waivers

ERB provides fee waivers to schools that require AABL as a part of their application process. It is up to the school to determine how best to distribute these.

## Score Reports

A child's AABL scores are based not only on how he or she performs individually, but on how other children of a similar age perform on the assessment. The score report includes the following information for each section: a raw score, a scaled score, a percentile rank, a stanine, and the number of items answered correctly, incorrectly, or skipped.

Both the parent and the ERB member schools to which the child is applying may access the online score report approximately three to five business days after the test date.

# Sample Score Report



## AABL ADMISSION ASSESSMENT FOR BEGINNING LEARNERS

Dear Member School,

Enclosed you will find your applicant's AABL Individual Student Report (ISR). AABL is a norm-referenced assessment that compares each child's scores to the scores of other children who have taken AABL (i.e. the norm group). Children who apply to selective schools are generally a higher-achieving group than the overall student population; consequently, relative to this more targeted AABL norm group, a child's performance on the assessment may appear to be lower than what is expected.

AABL measures each child's reasoning and achievement in four major sections: Verbal Reasoning (VR), Quantitative Reasoning (QR), Early Literacy (EL), and Mathematics Achievement (MA). AABL scores are designed to help schools assess a child's strengths in the four sections compared to other children applying to the same grade. As with all assessments, AABL scores are a snapshot of one test occasion and should be considered as only one piece of the overall admission process.

### Understanding the Individual Score Report

The ISR provides information about the child's overall performance on the four assessment sections. This section reports AABL scores both as scaled scores and as percentile ranks with reference to AABL norms; these norms are based on children who have taken AABL as the reference group. On the next page, you will receive **1)** an age-based scaled score, **2)** a confidence interval, **3)** a percentile rank, **4)** a stanine score, and **5)** an overall-based scaled score. Each of these scores is defined below.

- **Age-Based Scaled Score.** To ensure test security, ERB administers many different versions of the AABL assessment each year. Scaled scores are derived from the raw score (i.e. the number of items the child answered correctly) and allow ERB to report a child's standing relative to a reference group, regardless of the test version. The age-based scaled score reflects a child's standing relative to his/her specific age band, defined by six month intervals from age four through six years and 11 months. Within each age band, the age-based scaled scores for each section range from 40 to 160, with an average score of 100.
- **Confidence Interval.** Because no single assessment is a perfect indicator of a child's ability, there is always a certain amount of variability in any test score for a child. That is, if the child were to take the assessment again, their score may be slightly different. The information in the confidence intervals is intended to help explain this potential for variability. The confidence intervals reflect a range of scores that we can reasonably expect represent the child's true score.
- **Percentile Rank.** This rank illustrates the child's performance relative to all children in the same age category who took this assessment in a representative sample. Percentile rank scores range from 1 to 99. For example, a percentile rank of 63 on an AABL section indicates that the child scored as well as or higher than 63% of all children in the norm group. As noted above, the group of children who take the AABL typically are higher achievers than children in general. Therefore, compared to this higher-achieving norm group, a child's percentile rank may be lower than the child is used to receiving on other assessments.
- **Stanine.** This is an abbreviated version of the percentile. The stanine has only nine possible values and divides children into nine groups. Stanines can be particularly useful for admissions officers because they allow for meaningful groupings of children based on their performance on the assessment.
- **Overall-Based Scaled Score.** The overall-based scaled score considers the scores of all children who have taken the AABL as the reference group. The score is comparable for all school applicants and uses the average performance of the overall sample as the reference point, regardless how old a child is. Overall-based scaled scores range from 380 to 620, with an average score of 500.

### Stanine Analysis

A stanine analysis is also provided to illustrate that each score should be interpreted with score variability in mind. AABL Stanine scores are interpreted as the observed score plus or minus one stanine. Thus, where a child has received a stanine of 5 for Verbal Reasoning, the Stanine Analysis chart will show a band stretching from 4 to 6. In other words, the observed stanine score of 5 represents a score somewhere between 4 and 6. Therefore, when admissions officers compare scores of two children whose scores are one stanine apart, there may be no effective difference between the true performance levels of those two children.

# Sample Score Report

CONTINUED



## Individual Score Report

<b>Name</b>	Sample Student	<b>Candidate for Grade</b>	K
<b>Address 1</b>	123 Park Ave.	<b>Gender</b>	F
<b>Address 2</b>	#1A	<b>Date of Testing</b>	01/23/2015
<b>City, State Zip</b>	New York, NY 10016	<b>Registration Number</b>	123456
<b>Country</b>	USA	<b>Date of Birth</b>	YYYY-MM-DD
<b>Phone</b>	(917) 123-4567	<b>Age on Testing Day</b>	X years X months X days
<b>Email Contact</b>	parent@email.com		

	Age-Based Scaled Score	Confidence Interval	Percentile Rank	Stanine	Overall-Based Scaled Score
<b>Reasoning</b>					
Verbal Reasoning	103	84-122	59	5	520
Quantitative Reasoning	99	84-114	48	5	513
<b>Achievement</b>					
Early Literacy	97	82-112	43	5	512
Mathematics	92	75-109	31	4	507

**Notes:** (1) Age-Based Scaled Scores are comparable if the children are within the same age band. The age band is set at a 6-month interval, from the age of 4.0 through 6.11. (2) Percentile Rank and Stanine are derived from Age-Based Scaled Score. They are comparable only for those children who come from the same age band. (3) Overall-Based Scaled Scores are comparable for all test takers from the age of 4.0 through 6.11.

Stanine Analysis									
Stanine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>Percentile Bands</b>	1-3%	4-10%	11-22%	23-39%	40-59%	60-76%	77-88%	89-95%	96-99%
VR				59 %					
QR				48 %					
EL				43 %					
MA			31 %						

VR, Verbal Reasoning; QR, Quantitative Reasoning; EL, Early Literacy; MA, Mathematics.

# Sample Score Report

CONTINUED



## Individual Score Report

### Performance Description

In addition to percentile, stanine, and scaled scores, AABL also provides information on a child's performance on various content areas within each AABL section. This information is designed to inform a better understanding of each child's performance on the various subsections of the AABL. The information provided includes:

- **Number of Items** This is the total number of scorable items within the content areas on a particular subsection.
  - **Number Answered** This is the total number of items that the child answered within each content area of a subsection.
  - **Number Correct** This column shows how many items the child answered correctly within each content area of a subsection.
  - **Results for Each Item** This part of the report shows the child's answers to specific items. Each of the child's responses appears as a + (correct), - (incorrect), S (skipped), or N (not reached). Please note the item results are ordered from easiest to hardest for all sections, not in the order the items appeared as the child took the AABL. Therefore, the response pattern can provide some insight into the child's level of confidence about the material.
- Let's consider two children who received scores of 4 out of 7 on Patterns & Series (in Quantitative Reasoning). Here are the response patterns of Child A and Child B:

**Child A** + + + + - - -

**Child B** + - S + S + +

In this example, Child A answered the four easiest items correctly and missed the three hardest. Child B missed a relatively easy item, skipped two items at a medium difficulty level, and answered the two hardest items correctly. Child A tried from start to finish, getting the easier items right and missing the harder ones. Child B may not have checked answers before completing the assessment. However, Child B was able to answer the hardest items correctly, whereas Child A was not.

	# Of Items	# Answered	# Correct	Item Results
<b>Verbal Reasoning</b>				
Analogies	7	7	6	+++++ -
Classifications	7	7	7	+++++++
Inference / Deduction	4	4	3	+++ -
<b>Quantitative Reasoning</b>				
Analogies	6	6	3	+++ - -
Inference / Deduction	6	6	5	+++++ -
Patterns & Series	6	6	5	+ - + + +
<b>Early Literacy</b>				
Phonics and Word Identification	7	7	5	+++++ -
Phonological & Phonemic Awareness	9	9	8	+++++++ -
Reading Comprehension	1	1	0	-
Writing Conventions	1	1	1	+
<b>Mathematics</b>				
Geometry & Measurement	6	6	6	+++++++
Number Sense	6	6	5	+++++ -
Operations	6	6	2	+ - - + -

# Sample Score Report

---

CONTINUED



## Individual Score Report

### Behaviors Observed During Testing

Observable notes are general observations noted during a child's testing experience. It is not recommended to rely solely on this brief list of observations to formulate a complete impression of a child's abilities. They are meant to shed some light on a child's comfort level in the novel situation and general approach to the various testing tasks.

- Randomly and repeatedly tapped the screen.
- Transitioned smoothly after the break.

