

Cornerstone Assessments and Their Purposes

At Cornerstone we value the formative data we are able to gather through the scientific observation of children working with Montessori materials and with each other in their specially prepared environments! In addition, we use several nationally-normed standardized assessments to determine grade level and skill/ability. Assessments are always used in a non-intrusive manner and are selected to provide the most information in the least amount of time, so as to not detract from the children's day.

State-Mandated Assessments

- Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs): reading and math for all children in 3rd - 6th grades and science for children in 5th grade
- ACCESS for all English Language Learners in K - 6th grades

Additional Assessments

- Montessori General Achievement Tests (GATs): adapted with permission from the original author, Robert Ruud, these assessments measure the child's skill level on several key Montessori materials in language and in math at the beginning of the year. The GATs are primarily used in the Upper Elementary classrooms to determine each child's experience upon entering the environment.
- DIBELS: children are assessed at the beginning of each academic year to gather baseline data about reading skill level. Children not reading at grade level are provided intervention proportionate to need and assessed twice more during the school year.
- FASTBridge: children are assessed at the beginning of each academic year to gather baseline data about math skill level. Children not completing math work at grade level are provided intervention proportionate to need and assessed at least twice more during the school year.
- MEFS and DERS: Cornerstone is piloting the Minnesota Executive Function Scale with the Developmental Environment Rating Scale to measure the correspondence between exceptional Montessori environments and strong executive function skills.