

Important Information About Diagnostic Testing

The tests, which are free to do online can be found here:

<https://www.acediagnostictest.com/diagnostictest/>. You will need to create a free account, then add each child as your student, and then start one test at a time for them. There is an alternative paper version of the tests available at a cost from your support agency.

Keep these tips in mind:

- When you have your student do the tests, we recommend no more than one test per day per student, as they can take a while, and you want them to be as relaxed and fresh for each one as possible.
- There are four tests – English, Math, Word Building (spelling) and Reading (which Science and Social Studies levels are based on). Do not help them with the tests, with one possible exception – when they come across American coins etc in the Math test, tell them their value so they can do the addition with them – when they're actually doing Paces they will have NZ money ones. Otherwise, let them just do their best.
- No calculators – but he/she will need some scribble paper to do some working out on.
- You will need speakers or headphones for the Word Building test, as the computer reads out words that the student then spells by typing in. **Note:** if the student capitalises the words (except proper nouns if any), they will be marked wrong by the program, even if spelt correctly. Therefore, please make sure your student is not making use of the shift key when typing their answers in the Word Building test. It rarely happens, but I have had an incidence or two of a student scoring strangely low in this test, for this reason.
- The tests start from Level 1 and work up to Level 8 or 9 (depending on subject). It's important not to start too high on the tests, as this is basically like a one-off opportunity to put the "car on a hoist," give it (them) a thorough going over, and discover all the learning areas which need some help, so that they can be given a specific pathway to best meet his/her needs and prepare them for future learning with confidence. You can check with your support agency or myself as to what level to start your student on, but generally:
 - Children ages 5-9 should start at Level 1 of the tests
 - Children ages 10-12 should start at Level 3 of the tests*
 - Older students should start at Level 4 of the tests*
 - Note: there is key knowledge within Levels 4&5 of the tests which **MUST** be tested (unless the student is too young to work that high), so do not start any higher for any student.
 - *If your student is working at a level lower than their chronological age, then start them lower in the tests.

- The tests can take some time – again why we only do one a day. They need to keep going until the computer decides he/she can't go any further and automatically ends the test. (Edit: some of the test results I've seen recently indicate the computer testing is not stopping until the end – Level 9 – so if you have a younger child doing the tests, you may stop it after it's clear they have no clue how to answer any more questions but I suggest you make sure that they have been unable to answer correctly for 6-12 pages or so – 12 pages is one level). Don't stop when he/she thinks it is too hard. Each section of each test relates to one Pace – it may be that your student can't get anything right on one or two, but then will know concepts from the next one etc – each one he/she manages to complete well is one less Pace he/she will need to do.
- At the same time, most of the tests can be halted and come back to – if a student needs to do this to take a break, make sure they finish the page in front of them, and then clicks Next Page before exiting – that way it will save the results of that last page, rather than mark it as a fail. When you sign him/her back in, you should be able to select Resume Testing in the subject.
- Do not be concerned if he/she scores even lower in Math and English than you expect – nearly everyone new to ACE does. The whole system of ACE is that it will be designed specifically according to the student's needs and to help him/her fill his learning gaps (if any) and then move forward.
- There is an option to send the test results by email – have them emailed to yourself, then forward a copy to your support agency (and to me if I'm helping you with your exemption).