NAPLAN week checklist for parents

NAPLAN runs over about nine school days in March. A calm, normal week does more for your child than last-minute practice. Tick things off as you go.

The week before

- ☐ Check the test dates with your school, and avoid booking appointments on test days
- ☐ Try the official public demonstration site together so the online tools feel familiar
- ☐ Years 5, 7 and 9: a little typing practice helps for the writing test
- ☐ Ask the school whether your child needs to bring headphones or earbuds
- ☐ Talk about NAPLAN as "a check on how school is going", not a big exam

The night before

- ☐ A normal evening and a normal bedtime
- ☐ Pack the school bag: water bottle, glasses if worn, headphones if needed
- ☐ Skip practice tests tonight. Rest helps more
- ☐ Remind your child that doing their best is all anyone expects

On the day

- ☐ A good breakfast and a drink of water
- ☐ Arrive on time, so your child is settled before the test starts
- ☐ No calculator to bring: Years 7 and 9 have one built into the test
- ☐ A quick, cheerful goodbye. Nerves are normal and pass quickly

After each test

- ☐ Ask "What was the best part of today?" rather than "How did you go?"
- ☐ Do not go over questions or answers. That test is finished
- ☐ Plan something relaxed for the afternoon
- ☐ If your child is sick, tell the school. Catch-up tests can usually be done within the test window

Good to know

Order: writing comes first, then reading, conventions of language and numeracy.

Format: tests are online. Year 3 writing is the exception: it is done on paper.

Online tests adapt: questions get harder or easier depending on how your child is going, so finding some questions hard is expected.

Results: reports come later in the year. Our guide explains what they mean: mynaplan.com.au/naplan-results/

Things you can say

"You've been learning this all year. Just show what you know."

"If a question is tricky, have a go and move on. Everyone finds some questions hard."

"I'm proud of you for trying your best, whatever happens."

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