



with new ideas, are all commonly used in classrooms. Learning also happens outside the classroom on sports trips, at camps, in museums ... and at home.

### What ever happened to tests?

Tests are one way of finding out how well children are making progress, but teachers are likely to use other methods for this as well, particularly at primary and intermediate school. Throughout the year, a teacher might use a combination of:

- peer assessment
- self assessment
- group work
- group discussions
- project work
- portfolios
- tests.

These types of learning activities are now used by teachers in primary and intermediate classrooms to look at how well a child understands the skills or knowledge that have been taught. It is no longer about getting over 50 per cent or a grade from A to E. What did 51 per cent really mean anyway?

# A MAP OF PROGRESS

As parents, we want our children to learn and do well at school. But if you haven't been at school for a decade or two, things have probably changed from what you remember. Learning today doesn't mean sitting at desks all the time, working through textbooks, or copying from

the blackboard. Children are more likely to be involved in 'doing' things, which is why just looking through their school books may not tell you much about all the teaching and learning that has taken place. Learning activities, such as cooperative work, problem solving tasks, asking and answering questions and working

## How to help your children learn

- spend time with them
- talk with them about important things
- encourage them to do their best
- find out what they are good at and what interests them
- be excited about the things they are good at
- read with them often, talk with them about the book
- give them appropriate responsibilities at home
- get them to find out things for you
- ask them their opinions about things
- have high and realistic expectations of them
- be enthusiastic about learning with them
- expect them to go to school every day
- really believe that they can do well
- avoid comparing them with other children.