

Nelson Numeracy Assessment Kit
Frequently asked Questions
[Last updated August 2005]

Question

Can I purchase additional sets of the manipulatives?

Answer

Yes. Call Customer Service on 1800 654 831 and ask for the Nelson Numeracy Kit Manipulative Set - ISBN: 0170128822

Note: All the objects can be replaced easily with like objects. When replacing manipulates or adding additional manipulates, it is very likely that you will be able to source the same objects. If you cannot find some of the objects, follow these suggested guidelines:

- You can replace or add with like objects. Ensure that they are of the same colour for the first three years of school.
- If you cannot find dinosaurs, replace them with teddy bears.
- If you cannot find strawberries, replace them with apples or cherries.
- If you cannot find pizza shapes, replace them with fraction kit pieces.
- If you cannot find square tiles with numbers, make some out of card. They must be 32 mm x 27 mm. Colour match is not important.

Question

Can the *Nelson Numeracy Assessment Kit* software be networked across an entire school?

Answer

The student list used in the *Nelson Numeracy Assessment Kit* is accessible across a network. Not confusing it with the software side of the product which is updated on the client machine only.

Question

I have purchased my own copy of the *Nelson Numeracy Assessment Kit*. I have loaded the software on to my laptop. I am trying to add new students, but the software is not letting me. Does this mean that I have to also add the Administrator version on to the laptop (thereby treating the laptop as the 'network')?

Answer

The Administrator version of the software needs to be installed on your laptop to define a location for the shared files – which include the student list. You need to install this and also need to make sure it's in a directory you have control (access privileges) over. Please note that this would only apply to single users; if the software is on a school network, then the Administrator will have already installed the Administrator software on the network, and it does not need to be installed on individual computers.

Please make a note of questions you are asked by teachers that you cannot answer yourself. Forward these to Shannon Hick (Shannon.Hick@thomson.com or fax (03) 9685 4199) as soon as possible with your phone number and email. Answers will be provided by the publishing team.

Question

If an individual purchases the *Nelson Numeracy Assessment Kit* for private use, then their school decides to purchase the kit at a later date, can the individual transfer their data?

Answer

Yes. Assuming that the individual user has set up their Administrator software on their own computer, they would need to transfer these files (student and custom task shared data) to the school – and reconfigure the ‘network location’.

Question

How much hard disk space do you need to run the software indefinitely?

Answer

The Administrator software takes up just under 100MB and the Teacher software just under 300MB. Most of this is the Acrobat Reader installer – so this can be easily removed if space is limited. The files created by the software are very small, and should never exceed 10MB in size.

Question

The guided tour is very small on screen (especially on a laptop screen), so showing customers is difficult. Is there any way I can enlarge the guided tour screen?

Answer

No, but you can print the PDF version (which is on the Nelson Primary website).

Question

The *Nelson Numeracy Assessment Kit* software takes up the whole screen. Is there any way I can also show my toolbar on the bottom of the screen so I can swap from software to a PowerPoint presentation (for example) without having to Alt-Tab?

Answer

No, you need to press Alt-Tab to switch from screen to screen or, if you have a ‘Window’ key on the bottom left of your keyboard, simply press this.

Question

How far does the Kit take the students in Year 6 (7th year of school) that are ‘moving forward’... does the Kit take them beyond the current CSF they are in?

Answer

The Kit will take them just into CSF 5.

Question

Can you define ‘Moving Forward’?

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Answer

In some cases, ‘Moving forward’ moves students horizontally and extends their current knowledge to make new connections. In other cases, ‘Moving forward’ moves students vertically. For example, students might understand 3-digit numbers in addition, so rather than pushing them into 4-digit numbers, they could explore problem solving with 3-digit numbers and/or adding 3-digit numbers with zeros.

Question

Are rich assessment tasks built in to the NAK?

Answer

Absolutely. All the tasks chosen are rich assessment tasks. They assess essential learning in mathematics.

Question

Can you produce a graph of how Grade 3, for example, as a whole are going in a particular strand?

Answer

The software cannot produce a graph, but you can fill in the Class Checklist in the Teachers’ Guide or use the Class Profile on CD (a type of vertical graph), which will visually show a comparison of children across sections of a particular strand. On the CD you can also group children according to whether they care ‘Consolidating’ or ‘Moving Forward’, which then gives you your teaching groups.

Question

Can you produce a graph of how male or female students are performing?

Answer

As above. Just list all male students together and all female. You will easily see who are ‘Consolidating’ and who are ‘Moving Forward’. Or create a group of male students and a group of female students and print out their class profiles and compare.

Question

How can the *Nelson Numeracy Assessment Kit* fit in with the Early Years Interview (EYI)?

Answer

The *Nelson Numeracy Assessment Kit* can be used in conjunction with the EYI. You can take particular parts of the EYI and add them as custom assessment tasks in the *Nelson Numeracy Assessment Kit*. Unlike EYI, the *Nelson Numeracy Assessment Kit* can be given to small groups as well as a whole class, which saves you time. The *Nelson Numeracy Assessment Kit* covers ALL strands, whereas EYI does not cover Chance and Data, Money and Fractions.

Question

Is professional development (PD) available with the *Nelson Numeracy Assessment Kit*?

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Answer

Yes, PD is available for maths with Thomson Learning. These session can be linked to the *Nelson Numeracy Assessment Kit* or not – the PD session will be customised to your school's needs and there is a fee involved. Please contact Stephen.Graham@thomson.com.

Question

Is a correlation to *Nelson Maths* available?

Answer

Correlation documents are available on the Thomson Learning Australia Nelson Primary website at:

<http://primary.thomsonlearning.com.au/Book.aspx?TabID=2&SubjectID=121>

These documents (one for each year of schooling) give suggestions for work for students that are both consolidating in a particular strand and those that are moving forward.

Question

Can you add student assessment information on your laptop at home?

Answer

Yes. All information from assessments can be loaded onto your laptop at home. When you next link up to the school network, you click 'Backup' and the student information will then be saved to the school network.

Question

Is it possible to copy data from the *Nelson Numeracy Assessment Kit* software into a Word document for reporting?

Answer

Text from the *Nelson Numeracy Assessment Kit* software cannot be copied into Word, however all material on the software can be printed.

Question

Is there a facility to oversee the whole year level at once, or whole school results at once?

Answer

No, unless a teacher makes an assessment plan and enters the whole school into it.

Question

If a teacher is assessing the students in his class, and this is not password protected on the software, is there anything stopping other teachers from viewing or going into assessment of students in this class?

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Answer

Only the teacher and the administrator can see the class's assessment. Another teacher could only access this information if they share the same computer. The software was designed this way to protect the privacy of students.

Question

Why is 'money' not included in the first year of school?

Answer

After trialling, we gauged that students are not ready to be assessed on money, especially if the teacher gives this assessment to the students at the beginning and middle of the year. The outcome at Level 1 says 'exchange money in a play situation'. This means understanding the concept that money is used to exchange for goods, not the actual value of money in a number sense. By the end of the first year of school students should begin understanding the number value of money and hence simple money tendering is included in assessment for second year of school students.

Question

If a student is archived on the software, can this be changed (if, for example, the student left the school and then returned)?

Answer

Yes, the administrator simply goes to the student list, chooses the student and reapplies a year of school.

Question

Does the *Nelson Numeracy Assessment Kit* allow you to transfer students lists from CASES and SACS.

Answer

Yes. The Administrator is able to do this. Simple instructions are included with the software.

Question

Is the NAK software dual platform (can it run on Macs)?

Answer

Yes, but only those running the newer OSX operating system, computers must be OS 10.2.6 as a minimum.

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