

40 Ways to Show What You Know

By Lisa Swaboda © 2014 Atlas Educational

Why limit your expression to writing out detailed explanations or answering questions about a subject?

*These are some ways to assess your child's understanding using **alternative assessments**.*



1. Photograph It- Give your child a camera to photograph angles, take pictures of rock types, or completed work.

2. Model It – Draw a model to show how well you understand working parts or how something is built.

3. Scribe It- If you have the type of child who doesn't like to write, knowing that you'll scribe what they tell you can be a way to document learning without the stress.

4. Draw It- Instead of handing your child a workbook page, have him draw his understanding.



5. Body Pose It- Show how gravity works or demonstrate a right angle. Your body can show what you know.

6. Film It- Though it's similar to photography, there are some great homemade videos that really show what a child knows.

[Find out how to make a bottle rocket](#)- narrated by a pretty young, but knowledgeable kiddo!

7. Lego It- Legos are just for play. Would your child enjoy making a city, suburb, and rural area to show that he knows the difference? Have you check the top of the Legos? They demonstrate arrays which are valuable to show multiplication with tricky word problems.

8. Paint It- Some kids love to get messy! Why not spend some time painting mammals or painting and labeling a diagram of a flower?

9. Game It- Take an old board game and have your child create cards with an answer key about the topic. Now it's time to turn it into a learning game.



10. Blog It- Start a blog with your child. Have him use a nom de plume or post in his name showing what he knows!

Find out [this dragon's measurements](#) !

11. Teach It- Teaching something you understand to someone else always reinforces your own understanding. Be sure to ask questions along the way if you're playing "student" while your child is playing "teacher".

12. Puzzle It- Using word finds or crossword puzzles can be good practice, but when your [child creates them](#), it's even more fun (and easy)!

13. Word It- Use an acrostic poem to share knowledge. Play a word game to practice spelling or vocabulary.

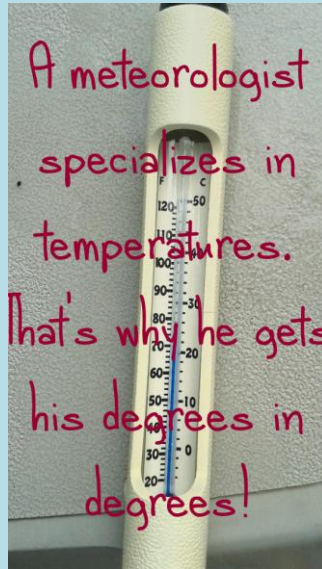
14. Audio It- Using an old fashioned cassette recorder or even the recorder on your phone can talk a child through an explanation that you can review later or get them to expand upon.

15. Describe It- Sometimes a paragraph is just the best way to explain your knowledge and understanding. Remember that sometimes it can be shortened to a line or two or lengthened into a report style.

16. Book It- [Creating a booklet](#) or foldable is sometimes a way to get past the writing part of showing what you know. Especially when it can be accompanied by illustrations or pasted photos, it can do the trick to ease assessment.

17. Relate It- Using metaphors or similes to compare something can make explanations crystal clear.

18. Riddle It- If you have one of those kids with a sense of humor, be sure to give him some examples and then let him loose in creating riddles of his own to share his knowledge.



19. Pun It- Though riddles and jokes can be cute, puns take an extra amount of imagination, but are worth it in remembrance. *I make horrible science puns; but only periodically.

20. Build It- There are tons of activities that will allow your child to demonstrate learning. Maybe your child would enjoy discovering [how potatoes can make batteries work](#). Whether it's creating something with magnets to show magnetism or using a pre-made kit building is a good alternative for a project kind of kid!

21. **Infographic It-** Infographics are all the rage these days! They are visually appealing and if you have a basic computer there are tons of free sites that will help you to create [really cool infographics](#) to share information with a fun twist!

22. **Mold It-** How can you show which Indians lived in which homes? Create some using clay, Play-doh, or make your own [moldable sand](#).



23. **Measure It-** Using tools to measure and recording those measurements are fantastic ways to demonstrate understanding.

24. **Grow It-** Growing isn't limited to plants. You can also grow crystals and even help your child to grow a small business.

25. **Story It-** Read some books about your topic or create one of your own [making up a fable](#) about a topic you know about.



26. Spell It- Use some letter stamps, cut out letters from a magazine, or write them in a sandbox. Spelling practice and testing doesn't have to be on paper.

27. Invent It- Use [Rube Goldberg](#) as your guide or tackle a problem around the house with household items. Flex your creativity and problem solving skills with this one.

28. Climb It- Real, imaginary, or a little bit of each. Whether you're using a goal setting chart or hiking in the wilderness like Brian from the book Hatchet by Gary Paulsen, doing is another way to show what you know.



29. Share It- By blog, in a group, or just with someone else. Sharing is like teaching. It pushes your boundary of knowledge into understanding.

30. Calendar It- Whether you're using a calendar to show improvement, schedule, or demonstrate time elapsed, they can be more adaptable than you realize. You can even create your own calendar with a Fact of the Week in mind and by adding photos it becomes functional as well as fun.



31. Experiment It- Science and the wonderful world of household chemicals. Test out some of those theories and see how chemicals react. Can you prove why it works? Change up your choices. Don't forget that experimentation can also be a way to prove statistics and to test theories with an array of ideas.

32. Map It- Drawing a map after a study of historical places or ancient civilizations might sound like a lot of work, but it could be a really fun project that your child digs into.

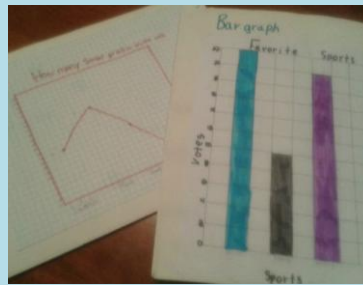


33. Bake It or Cook It- Don't limit this to science, but also proving that you understand how to double a recipe or the difference between measurement amounts can also be a cool assessment tool.

34. Color It- Sometimes building or drawing isn't the focus of the learning. Why not just have your child color it to show what they know. By coloring only the parts found in a plant cell or only those animals that are reptiles, you can still assess for knowledge and understanding without piling on the work.

35. Navigate It- This approach works really well with map concepts. Navigating your way through a crowded street while driving, directing someone on a trip by following a map, or navigating a metal object through an obstacle course using magnets are all navigation approaches.

36. Poem It- Using poetry or rap can help you to remember facts and by creating your own poetry, you can show your understanding not only in poetic structure, but in content too.



37. Graph It- Creating graphs is always an enlightening way to show your knowledge and demonstrate growth or change over time. Don't limit your child to traditional graph choices either. Use candies or objects to make them more interesting.

38. Dictionary It- Some topics are full of new content and definitions that your child may need to know. What better way than to have them create their own dictionary surrounding a topic complete with illustrations and diagrams along with traditional definitions?

39. Play It- Whether it's the homemade game from earlier in the list or a game your child creates, this idea is especially fun in math. There are tons of games online where you can double-check your objectives to make sure your child can demonstrate their knowledge.



40. Identify It- When using abstract concepts like shapes or concepts such as failure, encourage your child to incorporate many ways to prove understanding. By taking photos, identifying poetry, or finding examples in the real world, you allow your child to reach beyond the books and see how learning applies to the world.