

RURAL INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION
MATHAGONDAPALLI MODEL SCHOOL

Play way assessment
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Assessments are a part and parcel of teaching-learning process and it is being widely used in schools. Most of the assessment practices now in vogue are traditional.

The purpose of assessment is to measure the performance and progress of the students in their learning and to suggest remediation if inadequacies are found in both the sides, teachers and students.

The assessment days are not only nerve-racking, but threatening too for the students. It is equally stressful for the teacher and interestingly for the parents too. Now the **time has come** for a stress-free assessment system to be evolved. Assessments can be full of fun and joy. It is high time that schools do away with the traditional ways of assessing students' progress, think of an alternate assessment system where children love to participate and get them engaged and use the assessment process itself for learning.

The emerging changes in the education field have encouraged us to develop improvised techniques that surpass traditional assessment. We need to evolve protocols and methods such as new strategy, more focused procedures and tools and techniques with higher levels of reliability and validity. RICE-MMS has been involved in developing a creative assessment system as an alternative during the past years.

RICE-MMS has tried and come out with an assessment system called **play way / based assessment**. The play way / based Assessment (PBAS) consists of a set of games in which the expected learning competencies are inbuilt. Children play games, and teachers observe through, gain an understanding of each child's unique functioning, identify problem areas and understand the child's perceptions of his/her important relationship. This enables teachers subsequently to develop recommendations for both meeting the specific needs of children and techniques of learning and teaching.

While playing, children do not feel nor be conscious that they are being assessed. This gives them a sense of autonomy that they can play the game to the fullest possibility. Children exhibit the following behaviours during play way assessment, which are not normally expressed in conventional methods of assessment.

- Being an active learner
- Participating in the game without hesitation
- Concentrating on the game without any distraction
- Paying full attention to the task assigned
- Elongated attention span
- Trying to solve complex problems
- Seeking / offering peer help
- Completing the given task and presenting to the best of his/ her ability
- Accepting adult help / feedback willingly
- No tendency to overhear the answer or to copy it from someone
- Self-learning attitude

For these reasons, RICE-MMS feels and advocates that play way assessment is a good medium to teach and assess children learning. A child's presentation will give us a comprehensive overview of the play way / based assessment.