University of Northern Iowa

UNI ScholarWorks

Graduate Research Papers

Student Work

1988

Reporting pupil progress to parents of kindergarten students

Rose M. Sternberg University of Northern Iowa

Let us know how access to this document benefits you

Copyright ©1988 Rose M. Sternberg

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uni.edu/grp



Part of the Education Commons

Recommended Citation

Sternberg, Rose M., "Reporting pupil progress to parents of kindergarten students" (1988). Graduate Research Papers. 3423.

https://scholarworks.uni.edu/grp/3423

This Open Access Graduate Research Paper is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Work at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Graduate Research Papers by an authorized administrator of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uni.edu.

Offensive Materials Statement: Materials located in UNI ScholarWorks come from a broad range of sources and time periods. Some of these materials may contain offensive stereotypes, ideas, visuals, or language.

Reporting pupil progress to parents of kindergarten students

Abstract

The report card used for the kindergarten at Shelby-Tennant Community School needs to be revised. The areas covered on the report card do not include some items which are essential to the kindergarten curriculum at Shelby-Tennant. Items such as "color recognition" and "knows address and phone number" are not listed on the report card but the item "listens" is listed twice. A new report card which reflects the kindergarten curriculum content at Shelby-Tennant Community School will be developed. A review of the related literature and report card examples will provide a basis for deciding what to include in a new report card.

REPORTING PUPIL PROGRESS TO PARENTS OF KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

A Graduate Paper Submitted to the

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Masters of Arts in Education

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

by
Rose M. Sternberg
June 9, 1988

This Research Paper by: Rose M. Sternerg

Entitled: REPORTING PUPIL PROGRESS TO PARENTS OF

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

has been approved as meeting the research paper requirement for the Degree of Masters of Arts in Education.

Marvin Heller

July 8, 1988
Director of Research Paper

Marvin Heller

Ally 8 6 88

Date Approved Graduate Faculty Adviser

Cathy L. Thompson

Date Approved Graduate Faculty Reader

Greg P. Stefanich

Date Approved Head, Department of Curriculum

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction							
Factors affecting reporting pupil progress	5						
Educational responsibilities	5						
Methods of reporting pupil progress	9						
Things to consider	16						
Recommendations for kindergarten	18						
Needs Statement	24						
Evaluation							
Summary							
References	30						
Appendix A	38						
Appendix B	40						

REPORTING PUPIL PROGRESS TO PARENTS OF KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

Introduction

The report card used for the kindergarten at Shelby-Tennant Community School needs to be revised. The areas covered on the report card do not include some items which are essential to the kindergarten curriculum at Shelby-Tennant. Items such as "color recognition" and "knows address and phone number" are not listed on the report card but the item "listens" is listed twice. A new report card which reflects the kindergarten curriculum content at Shelby-Tennant Community School will be developed. A review of the related literature and report card examples will provide a basis for deciding what to include in a new report card.

The teachers at Shelby-Tennant Community

School currently report pupil progress through the use of a report card, parent-teacher conferences, phone conversations, letters, and permanent records for the students' cumulative folders.

Report cards are sent home to the parents four times during the school year and parent-teacher conferences are held following the first and third quarter. Phone calls and letters are used as needed.

A report card refers to a formal written statement of a student's progress. The report card used for the kindergarten students at Shelby-Tennant Community School is located in Appendix A. It is left to the teacher to determine when to grade each item and the criteria for assigning grades. Letter grades on the report card are: S - satisfactory, I - improving, N - needs improving, and U - unsatisfactory. The items the teacher is not ready to grade the children on are left blank. The music and art grades are given by their respective teachers. The physical education instructor provides the grade for throws and catches.

Based on the grades reported on the report card, the teacher determines a quarter grade and semester grade for reading, math, language, conduct, and work study. The music, art, and

physical education instructors provide quarter and semester grades for their respective areas. These grades are recorded on the students' permanent files and cumulative folders.

Factors Affecting Reporting Pupil Progress
to Parents of Kindergarten Students

The answers to four questions were sought by reviewing the research and literature available on this topic. What are the educational responsibilities in reporting pupil progress?

What does the research tell us about the methods of reporting pupil progress? What do we need to consider when reviewing and changing reporting methods? What is recommended at the kindergarten level?

Educational Responsibilities

The types of reports a teacher shares with the students' parents and the content of the reports are dependent on the philosophy of the teacher and the school (NEA, 1974). When determining policies and procedures for reporting pupil progress, educators must consider carefully

what is to be evaluated and if it is possible to appraise it fairly (Sartore, 1975).

"A grading system is simply a communication device which is implemented to perform specified functions" (Williams & Miller, 1973, p. 334).

Grades can serve as a summary of student performance, a predictor of future student performance, a record of progress toward an objective such as a degree or award, or an indicator of the effectiveness of the educational system.

The three basic reasons for reporting pupil progress are to inform pupils of their progress, to provide pupil guidance, and to inform parents. An effective reporting procedure should meet the needs of all three areas (Giannangelo, 1975). Two educational responsibilities which educators must consider when reporting pupil progress are their responsibility to parents and their responsibility to the students. Parents have a right to receive meaningful and honest reports concerning what the school is teaching and how well their child is learning. Schools have a responsibility to help

students develop to their maximum potential, both academically and personally (Wise & Newman, 1975).

Student records help educators know as much about each student as possible (Feddersen, 1972). Educators should develop a log of each student's daily work activities, develop student evaluation checklists which list skills accomplished and those yet to be mastered, and help students learn to participate in evaluating their own work (Sartore, 1975). By allowing student input in the assessment process there is a greater chance of establishing a commitment on the part of the student. This commitment may improve student achievement (Leary, 1975).

Student records should tell us something meaningful about the child, monitor his growing understanding of the curriculum, assist us in extending the child's learning, and communicate to the child and his parents what progress he has made. They should also be positive and free of jargon. Student records should provide a basis for the teacher's behavior toward the child and they should be meaningful to a receiving teacher

(Waterland, 1987). School records should also be standardized for all teachers in the system and they should be subjected to periodic review, preferably in co-operation with parents (Yauch, 1961).

Yauch (1961) pointed out the importance of looking at achievement, effort, attitude, and growth in terms of potential when assessing students. Educators should provide an enviroment conducive to observation of applied learning over a period of time through student exposure to a wide range of learning materials, approaches, and settings. Educators should also notify parents frequently about what their child is doing that benefits his or her personal and class growth (Sartore, 1975). Fedderson (1972) stressed the importance of sharing more with parents than just their child's progress. He advocates providing parents with information on the type of program, what will occur in the classroom, classroom experiences, information about the child such as the activities he likes/does not like, advice

which may be of assistance, and the goals and objectives for the child.

Methods of Reporting Pupil Progress

Reporting pupil progress should involve the use of numerous methods of collecting data, analyzing the information, and bringing it together to give a realistic picture of the child (NAEYC, 1988). The reporting aspect of the grading procedure involves summarizing the student's progress in some kind of report format.

There are three factors upon which grades can be based. They are: the percent of knowledge and/or skills achieved by the student, the teacher's prediction of the student's potential, and the student's possession of specified attitudes or behavioral characteristics (Williams & Miller, 1973).

The methods of reporting pupil progress can be grouped into two major types: coded and narrative. Coded, or "abbreviated summary systems" include systems based on a five category scale (i.e., A, B, C, D, F), and percentage or numerical ratings, listed, graphed, or charted.

Narrative or "extended summary systems" include checklists, written evaluations, conferences, and profiles (Walling, 1975, Williams & Miller, 1973; Wise & Newman, 1975).

Each type of reporting method has its advantages and disadvantages. Letter grades and percentage or numerical ratings are considered easy and convenient to use, easy to interpret, motivating for some students, and they serve as a fairly good predictor of future success in school.

Traditional letter grades have not been looked upon very kindly by the literature. They have been accused of causing discipline problems and straining the child-teacher relationship. A major problem with letter grades is that they are often misinterpreted within schools and among teachers. They often convey different meanings for the students, parents, and teachers. Letter grades are usually based on a combination of achievement, effort, and conduct giving a blurred picture of the students' abilities and weaknesses. They may result in unfair competition among students and contribute to cheating. They

influence the students' confidence and level of expectation, causing stress and a poor self concept for some students. Letter grades and percentage ratings often overlook the area of creativity. They tend to result in the students looking to the outside for guidance and judgment rather than becoming decision makers concerning their own work and efforts. Letter grades may influence the students to be more interested in the grades rather than in the aquisition of knowledge. Letter grades and ratings may also be biased by students' sex (Frisbie, 1976; Kunder, 1977; Sartore, 1975; Tingey, 1986). Longstreet (1975) recommended the use of mastery grading, contract grading, and self-assigned grades to help alleviate some of the problems caused by letter grades.

Checklists consist of a list of behavioral objectives, character traits, progressive performance steps, or some other evaluative criteria. They provide a detailed list of the students' strengths and weaknesses and the objectives list provides an indication of what the

students will learn during the year. emphasis is on what the student can do. Checklists can also assist the school in pinpointing weaknesses in the instructional program. The major disadvantage of checklists is that they can be time-consuming. They can become simplistic and rigid or long and petty. The use of checklists necessitates revisions as the instructional objectives change. Checklists can be confusing for parents if they do not understand the objectives. They are also a problem to maintain as permanent records (Kunder, 1977; Walling, 1975; Williams & Miller, 1973; Wise & Newman, 1975). Frisbie (1976) recommends a checklist he calls Expanded Reporting Forms. classify the instructional objectives by subject matter areas and are shared with the parents during parent-teacher conferences.

Computer Assisted Reporting to Parents (CARP) is one type of written evaluation. Another is letters to parents. CARP provides an anecdotal report of the child's school progress. The teacher chooses from a list of possible

descriptors those which pertain to a student, and the computer prints up the report (Giannangelo, 1975; Giannangelo & Lee, 1974). Written evaluations, CARP, and letters to parents can tell more than the other reporting forms, providing parents with an individualized account of the child's progress. They are more helpful to students than letter grades. Written evaluations require a considerable amount of time to develop. This may result in the use of meaningless generalizations. Written evaluations are more subjective than letter grades, and they provide no cumulative record of student progress (Kunder, 1977; Walling, 1975).

Conferences are considered one of the best methods of reporting pupil progress. They allow for communication between the teacher and the parent. Any misunderstandings concerning the child's progress can be clarified during parent-teacher conferences. Fedderson (1972) recommends sharing many types of information with parents during parent-teacher conferences.

Information gathered through observations of the

child in the classroom, ckecklists of the child's activities, examples of the child's work, and an informal assessment of basic skills should be discussed during conferences. Parent-teacher conferences can be very time consuming for the teacher and some parents are unwilling or unable to attend conferences. The success of conferences is dependent on the availability of adequate student records and the teachers ability to communicate effectively with parents (Kunder, 1977; Walling, 1975)

Moyles (1986) advocates the use of student profiles to get the whole picture of a child. Profiling involves the collection of data on all aspects of the child's development through extensive record keeping (Moyles, 1986).

A 1977 Educational Research Service Report provides a survey of the policies and procedures used by school systems throughout the United States to report pupil progress to parents and on permanent records. The report states that parent-teacher conferences were the most widely used methods of reporting to parents of

kindergarteners. Letters to parents, pass/fail designation, satisfactory/unsatisfactory grades, letter grades, and percentage grades were used less often.

The method used by more than half of the responding school systems to record final grades of kindergarten pupils was a checklist/rating scale. Other methods included letter grades, satisfactory/unsatisfactory grades, pass/fail marks, and percentage grades.

Most schools report pupil progress every nine weeks. The frequency of reporting pupil progress varied from twice a year to every 6 weeks. The frequencies employed by school systems include three times a year, every ten weeks, and every twelve weeks (Kunder, 1977).

Hatch and Freeman (1986) analyzed the report cards used in Ohio Public School kindergartens. The study provides a detailed list of descriptors used and the items included on the report cards. It contains valuable information in terms of what items to consider including in a report card and what descriptors to use but it does not provide a

basis for which items and descriptors are better than the others. "...A record of what schools are actually doing in no way validates the practice" (Yauch, 1961, p. 50).

Two characteristics which are found on most report cards are space to record school grades and behavioral achievements, and space for the teacher to add personal comments. Most report cards are issued six times a year and they need to be issued in conjuntion with other devices such as parent-teacher conferences. In some school districts parents are sharing in report card revisions. Reporting policies and procedures are usually uniform within a school system (Yauch, 1961).

Things To Consider

Sapone and Guiliano (1977) outlined a six step process to determine alternative systems of reporting pupil progress. It provides parents the opportunity to decide how they want their child's progress reported to them and the opportunity to choose a new system when they wish. With such a system, teachers could possibly be using more than

one method of reporting pupil progress for the students in a class and may be asked to change reporting methods during the middle of a term.

Studies on parental preferences of reporting methods showed that 85% of the parents reporting indicated that their preference was to continue whatever system of reporting was in operation.

The majority of parents did not feel a need for a change in the reporting procedure used at their child's school (Yauch, 1961). Parents often have confidence in the accuracy of grades to tell their child's abilities and to predict future successes (NEA Research Division, 1970).

Williams and Miller (1973) identified four dimensions which should be considered when revising a grading system. They are: the function or purpose of the grades, the type of student performance to be assessed, the standard for comparison, and the notation system which adequately serves the purpose of the grades.

An effective report card should serve four important functions. It should show the basis for evaluation, indicate the student's performance, be

direct and clearly stated, and provide a space for written comments, thus allowing for teacher and class differences (Walling, 1975).

Reporting systems must be comprehensive enough to serve all the functions expected of grades. It may be necessary to determine and record more than one grade for each student in order to adequately serve and meet the educational responsibilities to parents and students. One grade cannot adequately tell all that needs to be communicated (Williams & Miller, 1973; Yauch, 1961).

Recommendations for Kindergarten

Very little researach has been done concerning grading and reporting pupil progress specificly at the kindergarten level. Most of the research deals with the upper elementary and high school level. The information collected concerning reporting pupil progress at the upper levels can be of help in determining how to report pupil progress at the kindergarten level. When determing the methods a school system will employ to report pupil progress it is important to

remember that "...any assessment system that does not contribute to a youngster's learning potential is not worth using" (Sartore, 1975, p. 263)

At the kindergarten level, it is important to consider the philosophy of the teacher and the school district when determining the type of written report to use. The written report should provide the parents with an accurate picture of their child's progress. Anecdotal records and cumulative folders should be kept on a continuing basis to record information relevant to the child's progress.

A study on parental preferences in kindergarten report cards concluded that the report card alone was rated as the least favorable reporting method. The most favored method was a combination of report cards, conferences, and letters (Stephens, 1980). Bjorklund and Burger (1987), Ediger (1975), and Gelfer and Perkins (1987) recommended the use of parent-teacher conferences in the reporting process. Hogan (1975) recommends including the child in the conference.

Fehrle (1979) conducted a survey of kindergarten report cards in the state of Missouri. He found considerable differences among the report cards and considered some of them to be inadequate. He identified seven areas which he felt should be included on the kindergarten report card. He stressed that the tone of the report card needs to be positive so as to avoid giving the child a poor attitude toward himself or school. "...a balance should be struck between providing constructive criticism in important areas of a child's performance and enhancing positive attitudes in the child and his parents toward school and learning. No child should flunk anything in kindergarten" (p. 19).

The seven areas which should be included on the kindergarten report card are play, oral language, social/emotional growth, arts and crafts, music, academic skills, and following directions (Fehrle, 1979). These areas fit in well with the conclusions and implications from Hatch's and Freeman's (1986) analysis of kindergarten report cards in Ohio and the

position of early childhood educators on emergent literacy (Elkind, 1986; Elkind, 1987; International Reading Association, 1986; Iowa Prekindergarten/Kindergarten Task Force, 1987; Katz, 1987; NAEYC, 1986a; NAEYC, 1986b; Strickland, 1979).

The kindergarten report cards in Ohio indicated that the role of the kindergarten was to provide academic training for their students, resulting in negative evaluations of the children. Hatch and Freeman (1986) questioned the push for academics and the negative evaluations. The emphasis on academics obscured the areas of play, self-esteem, curiosity, interest, motivation, and enjoyment on the reporting forms.

Developmentally appropriate curricula and literacy development are major topics of concern for the early childhood educators of the 1980's. Assessments at the kindergarten level must be developmentally appropriate. They should employ a variety of methods and instruments, be a part of the instruction, and occur continuously. Assessment of children's literacy development

should focus on a broad range of skills and knowledge including concept development, comprehension, knowledge of words and the writing system, and composing. Literacy should be assessed in a variety of contexts and the assessment measures should be appropriate for children's level of development and cultural background (Teal, Hiebert, & Chittenden, 1987).

The most recent information from the

Department of Education for the state of Iowa

addresses the issue of developmentally appropriate

practices in the kindergarten. They divided the

curriculum into the subject areas of language

arts, mathematics, the arts, physical education,

science, and social studies. Teaching strategies

and activities in each area were matched with

sample objectives. It emphasises hands on

activities for the students, employing

manipulatives, movement and language experiences

to develop the cognitive, affective, social and

psychomotor abilities of each child. It does not

discuss the methods of reporting pupil progress or

what should be included in the reporting

instrument (Department of Public Instruction, 1983).

The curriculum for Shelby-Tennant Community School District is being revised at this time. The school district is involved in an area-wide curriculum project coordinated by Area Education Agency XIII. During 1987 the committee began work on the mathematics curriculum. The health, home economics, and physical education curricula are scheduled for revisions beginning in 1988. curriculum developed by the area committee is to serve as a guide for the participating school districts with districts selecting from the master list those objectives which they wish to include in their school's curriculum. With the math, health, home economics, and physical education curricula in progress and other areas of the curriculum scheduled for succeeding years, this is not an ideal time to base decisions for report card revisions on the school curriculum.

Needs Statement

The major purposes of reporting kindergarten pupil progress at Shelby-Tennant Community School are to show a realistic and meaningful account of student growth to the students and their parents. The progress report will be based on a positive interpretation of what the students can do in all areas of development.

Reporting pupil progress to the parents of the kindergarten students at Shelby-Tennant Community School will involve the use of a combination checklist/report card, parent-teacher conferences, phone conversations, and letters. The information included in the report card will be based on a thorough assessment of the child's progress conducted throughout the school year using observations, checklists, and examples of student work. The emphasis will be on a positive interpretation of the students abilities and growth.

The report card will include a checklist of basic skills, a graded report of other factors important to the kindergarten curriculum at

Shelby-Tennant Community School, space for teacher comments, and a record of the student's attendance. The areas included on the report card will be pre-reading/reading skills, math skills, kindergarten skills, physical development, language development, music, PE, art, creative tendencies, social/emotional development, and work study skills. These areas are consistent with the author's understanding of the kindergarten curriculum of Shelby-Tennant Community School, the Department of Education's recommendations for kindergarten curriculum, and the entry level skills expected of first graders at Shelby-Tennant Community School.

The checklist will be completed on a continuous basis and will be supplemented with more specific skills checklists. The date of achievement will be recorded beside each item.

The checklists will be kept in the classroom and the students will help the teacher record information on them as they achieve mastery of each item. This will help the students learn how to evaluate their own work, a major goal of

education (Tingey, 1986). Student participation and understanding of the checklist will instill a sense of ownership toward the items on the report card, further developing the students' understanding of their strengths and weaknesses.

The graded report will provide space for recording a letter grade for the remaining items each quarter of the school year. The grades used for the graded portion of the report card and their interpretation will be: A - always; M - most of the time; O - once in a while; and N - not yet. The right side of the report card will allow space for teacher comments. The report card will be printed on NCR paper with four carbonized copies. The parents will receive one copy following each grading period. They will keep the checklist and graded portion of the report card and return the front page for the teacher's use. The final copy will be placed in the student's permanent file.

The parents will be scheduled for a parent teacher conference following the first and third grading periods. Anyone may request a conference

following the second or fourth grading period.

Parent phone calls and letters will be utilized as needed to report student progress at other times.

The new report card for the kindergarten students at Shelby-Tennant Community School is located in Appendix B. It will be printed near the left edge of the paper. The right margin will allow space for teacher comments.

Evaluation

The report card will be evaluated after two years. The major concern at this time is the teacher time needed to do an accurate and effective job of reporting each item on the report card. The progress report requires a great deal of specific information concerning each student's growth throughout the year. The teacher has spent a considerable amount of time keeping student records during previous school years and does not anticipate a problem with this.

Two years will allow ample time to adjust to the new format, experiment with daily record keeping methods, and determine the report card's

effectiveness in providing an accurate account of the student's progress. During that time professional journals will be consulted for recent information on reporting pupil progress and the updated curriculum guide for Shelby-Tennant will be consulted to determine any necessary adjustments.

Summary

The research on reporting pupil progress to parents provides a thorough description of reporting methods and the advantages and disadvantages of each method. It fails to identify one method as being better than the others because each method has strengths and weaknesses which must be considered when changing reporting methods. The research does indicate that a combination of methods of reporting is beneficial in providing an accurate account of pupil progress, and it is important to review reporting methods on a continuing basis to determine their effectiveness.

The reporting instrument developed and presented in this report has been determined by

the researcher to be the best method of reporting kindergarten pupil progress at Shelby-Tennant

Community School at this time. It is not intended for use with other kindergarten students because the teacher's philosophy and school's curriculum may differ. It is intended to provide a guide for use during the report card selection process.

REFERENCES

- Area Education Agency XIII Curriculum Committee.

 [Areawide curriculum guide]. Development in process.
- Bjorklund, G. & Burger, C. (1987). Making conferences work: For parents, teachers, and children. Young Children, 42(2), 26-31.
- Department of Public Instruction (Ed.). (1983).

 Kindergarten...a year of beginnings.

 (Available from State of Iowa, Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146).
- Ediger, M. (1975). Reporting pupil progress:

 Alternatives to grading. Educational

 Leadership, 32(4), 265-267.
- Elkind, D. (1986). Formal education and early childhood education: An essential difference.

 Phi Delta Kappan, 67(9), 631-636.
- Elkind, D. (1987). The child: Yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Young Children, 42(4), 6-11.

- Feddersen, J. (1972). Establishing an effective parent-teacher communication system.

 Childhood Education, 49(2), 75-79.
- Fehrle, C. (1979). Here're seven things your kindergarten report cards should measure.

 Executive Educator, 1(11), 19.
- Frisbie, D. A. (1976). Expanded reporting forms:

 Points to ponder. The Clearing House, 49(8),

 371-372.
- Gelfer, J. I., & Perkins, P. G. (1987).

 Effective communication with parents: A process for parent-teacher conferences.

 Childhood Education, 64(1), 19-22.
- Giannangelo, D. M. (1975). Make report cards meaningful. Educational Forum, 39(4), 409-415.
- Giannangelo, D. M. & Lee, K. Y. (1974). At last:

 Meaningful report cards. Phi Delta Kappan,

 55(9), 630-631.

- Hatch, J. A., & Freeman, E. B. (1986).

 Evaluation of kindergarten students: An

 analysis of report cards in Ohio Public

 Schools. Paper presented at the Annual

 Meeting of the American Educational Research

 Association, San Francisco, CA.
- Hogan, J. R. (1975). The three-way conference:

 Parent, teacher, child. <u>Elementary School</u>

 <u>Journal</u>, 75(5), 311-315.
- International Reading Association. (1986).

 Literacy development and pre-first grade.

 Childhood Education, 63(2), 110-111.
- Iowa Prekindergarten/Kindergarten Task

 Force. (1987, October). <u>Iowa</u>

 <u>prekindergarten/kindergarten task force</u>

 <u>report</u>. (Available from the Department of Education, Des Moines, Iowa).
- Katz, L. G. (1987). What should young children
 be learning? (Report No. OERI 400-86-0023).
 Urbana, IL: University of Illinois. (ERIC
 Document Reproduction Service No. ED 290 554).

- Kunder, L. H. (1977). Reporting pupil progress:
 policies, procedures, and systems. Arlington,
 VA: Educational Research Service, Inc.
- Leary, J. L. (1975). Assessing pupil progress:

 New methods are emerging. Educational

 Leadership, 32(4), 250-252.
- Longstreet, W. S. (1975). The grading syndrome. Educational Leadership, 32(4), 243-246.
- Moyles, J. (1986). Classroom management: The whole picture. Child Education, 63(3), 10-11.
- National Association for the Education of Young Children. (1986a). NAEYC position statement on developmentally appropriate practice in early childhood programs for four- and five-year olds. Young Children, 41(6), 20-29.
- National Association for the Education of Young
 Children. (1986b). NAEYC position statement
 on developmentally appropriate practice in
 early childhood programs serving children from
 birth through age eight. Young Children,
 41(6), 4-19.

- National Association for the Education of Young Children. (1988). NAEYC position statement on standardized testing of young children three through eight years of age. Young Children, 43(3), 42-47.
- National Education Association. (1974). What

 research says to the teacher: Evaluation and

 reporting of student achievement (NEA Stock

 No. 387-11870). Washington, D.C.: The

 Association.
- National Education Association, Research Division.

 (1970). Marking and reporting pupil progress.

 NEA Journal, 59(8), 55-56.
- Sapone, C. V. & Giuliano, J. R. (1977).

 Alternative methods of reporting pupil progress. NASSP Bulletin, 61(405), 44-46.
- Sartore, R. L. (1975). Grading: A searching look. Educational Leadership, 32(4), 261-264.

- Shelby Community School Curriculum Committee.

 (1977). Shelby Community School Curriculum

 Guide. (Available from Shelby-Tennant

 Community School, 304 Western Avenue, Shelby,

 Iowa 51537).
- Stephens, L. S. (1980). <u>Using parental</u>

 preferences in report cards to design a report

 card for Blennerhassett Kindergarten. (Report

 No. PSO11-860). WV: West Virginia

 University. (ERIC Document Reproduction

 Service No. ED 195 350).
- Strickland, D. S. (1979). On reading. <u>Childhood</u> Education, 56(2), 67-74.
- Teal, W. H., Hiebert, E. H., & Chittenden, E. A.

 (1987). Assessing young children's literacy
 development. The Reading Teacher, 40(8),
 772-777.
- Tingey, C. (1986). What's in an "A"? <u>Early</u>
 Years: <u>Teaching PreK-8</u>, 17(3), 85-87.
- Walling, D. R. (1975). Designing a "report card" that communicates. Educational Leadership, 32(4), 258-260.

- Waterland, L. (1987). Language: For the record. Child Education, 64(2), 30-31.
- Williams, R. G. & Miller, H. G. (1973). Grading students: A failure to communicate. The Clearing House, 32(4), 332-337.
- Wise, R. I. & Newman, B. (1975). The responsibilities of grading. Educational Leadership, 32(4), 253-256.
- Yauch, W. A. (1961). What research says about school marks and their reporting. NEA

 Journal, 50(5), 50 & 58.

The following additional references were consulted to determine the wording to use for each item on the report card.

- Doud, J. L., & Finkelstein, J. M. (1985). A two-year kindergarten that works. Principal, 64(5), 18-21.
- Goodwin, H. Creating effective report cards.

 Morgantown, WV: West Virginia University Book
 Store.

- Finkelstein, J. M. <u>Initial Developmental</u>

 <u>Checklist</u>. (Available from Dr. Finkelstein,

 Price Lab School, University of Northern Iowa,

 Cedar Falls, Iowa).
- Finkelstein, J. M. <u>Kindergarten Progress Report</u>.

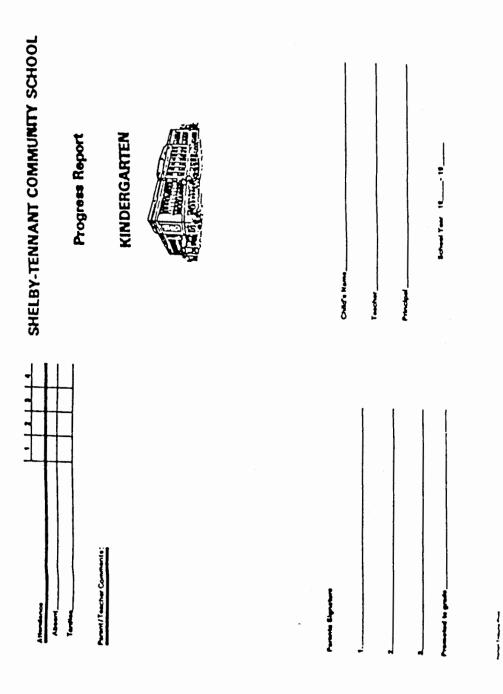
 (Available from Dr. Finkelstein, Price Lab
 School, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar
 Falls, Iowa).
- <u>Kindergarten Progress Report</u>. (Available from National School Forms, Inc. 2 Reynolds Lane, Buchanan, NY 10511).
- Report Cards from the following schools:

 Aplington Community School District, Aplington,

 Iowa

Blumfield Elementary School, Omaha, Nebraska
Hampton Community Schools, Hampton, Iowa
Harlan Community School, Harlan, Iowa
Newton Community School, Newton, Iowa
Parkersberg Elementary School, Parkersberg, Iowa
Shelby-Tennant Community School, Shelby, Iowa
Wapsie Valley Community School, Wapsie Valley,
Iowa.

Appendix A



Money Sailte	Cuts aimpire tigures.	Completes tigura	Traces phopos and letters	Buttons and the	λοπορε	51100	Hope	Thouse cathes	Knows right and left	Balances	Music. An	Sungs with others	L'istana to music	L'Aces to piery gemes with music	Draws and colors pictures	Painte pictore	Uses own lease in art	Wart Habits and Canduct	Shows self control	Takes luns and shares	Listens	Paspects own property and	livel of others	Follows directions	Plays well with advers	Philohes soft	Diberya nutus pil sadvaty med school	į	3 Battefactery hems by blank haltcates net			U Uhaatlafactory
Barneton Bacomese	Identifies phopes (Circle, square,	rectangle, establish and curved	lives)	Metches objects with correct	Part (1.30)	he acted to write numerally 1-10	Is able to write hour and a fd-70	to abbe to identify the different	Armbers by e-form (1-10)	to acts to identify the different	- CO	Shares one-to-one correspondence	Addrion of simple numbers	Ameding Residence	Identifies Manages and	Officerose	Secure and letter to		And a property of a property of the second o	follows hall be noted assessmon	Anthre General	Can reche tenters of sephebot	Manifeliar lations of alphabet	Can write latings of employed	Car presents the served phenome.				I o peed Heart	December Cheerly	Takes part in phone and tell	Can match obserts or olthors

Appendix B

SHELBY-TENNANT COMMUNITY SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN PROGRESS REPORT 1988 - 1989

CIIII S Name
Teacher
Principal
Please sign and return this page to school. You may keep the other pages for your records.
First quarter
Second quarter
Third quarter

Data ashiawad-	Fre-Reading/Reading Skills Student:
Date achieved=	
	_shows an interest in books
	_recognizes name in print
	_sees likenesses and differences in pictures and objects
	_recognizes names of classmates
	_recognizes capital letters of the alphabet
	_recognizes small letters of the alphabet
	_knows alphabet sequence
	_hears likenesses and differences in words
	_identifies rhyming words
	_recognized words with same initial sound
	_associates letters and sounds
	_recognizes and reads simple words
	_applies phonetic skills to new words
Date Achieved=	Math Skills
	_identifies basic shapes
	_compares and contrasts objects / sorts and classifies
	recognizes numerals 0-10
	recites numbers orally to 20
	recognizes numerals 11-20
	uses one to one correspondence when counting
	counts and matches sets with correct numeral (0-10)
	understands ordinal positions first-fifth
	demonstrates conservation of number
	demonstrates understanding of a graph
	creates and extends patterns

Data Balifica	Kindergarten Skills	student:
Date Achieved		======================================
	identifies 8 basic color	S
	reads color words	
	names days of the week	
	names months of the year	
	knows phone number	
	knows address	
Date Achieved	Physical Development	
Date Achieved	Large Motor jumps and hops	·
	skips	
	catches, bounces, a	nd throws a ball
	Small Motor zips and snaps	
	ties shoes	
	uses pencil with co	ntrol
	uses scissors corre	ctly
	draws recognizable	figures
Grading Key		
A - always	M - most of the time O -	once in a while N - not yet
Grading Perio	od 4 Speech	
	speaks clearly	
-	speaks with ad	equate volume
	Stamina	
	appears to be	well rested

Grading Key	student:
A - always M - n	nost of the time O - once in a while N - not yet
Grading Period	Kindergarten Skills Continued
1 2 3 4	
	knows right from left
	uses left to right sequence
	Language Development
	likes to share experiences
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	retells simple stories well and in order
	expresses ideas clearly
	uses vocabulary appropriate for age and situation
	Music
	enjoys music activities
	PE
	enjoys PE activities
	Art
	enjoys art activities
	Creative Tendencies
	thinks of new ways to use materials
	finds solutions to problems
	offers novel but relevant approaches
	investigates new tasks and materials

Grading Key	student:											
A - always M - mos	st of the time O - once in a while N - not yet											
Grading Period 1 2 3 4	Social/Emotional Development											
	_appears happy in school											
	_works and plays well with others											
	shares and takes turns											
	_listens in group settings											
	participates willingly in activities											
	_follows class and school rules											
	_confident in self and abilities											
	_takes care of belongings											
	Work Study Skills											
	has satisfactory attention span during:small group activities											
	large group activities											
	play activities											
	indepentent work time											
	understands and carries out directions:first time											
	needs additional explanation or help											
	_seeks help when needed											
	_completes work											
	Attendance Report											
Grading Pe	eriod 1 2 3 4											
=======================================												
Days Present												
Days Absent												
Times Tardy												