

## Communication to Improve Student Learning

**R**esearch has shown us that students' belief in their own abilities and their motivation levels can make a huge difference in their learning. Keeping students at the centre of their learning increases their understanding and motivates them to learn.

Assessment is not something that teachers *do* to students. It is a process that requires both communication and collaboration. Assessment should be frequent, and occur constantly through the teaching/learning process.

An important aspect of assessment is the teacher's determination of the learning styles of the students in their classroom. Once they know their students well they can plan and implement lessons to best meet their learning needs.

Strong Beginnings/Bon Départ provides our teachers with an ideal opportunity to meet with their students, one-on-one, to become familiar with their learning styles, and to set the course for the coming year.

Oral reporting times are an opportunity for teachers to share student progress and collaborate with parents around their children's education. Consistent feedback and communication between the teacher, student and parent throughout the year allows for successful learning. It is critical that students receive abundant feedback and that they have time and structures within which to reflect on their learning before they are formally assessed.

Assessment needs to be meaningful, consistent, accurate and supportive of learning. It should provide students with valuable information about achievement and learning outcomes.

Source: Communicating Student Learning, Manitoba Education Citizenship and Youth

