

Appendix C. CogAT® Parent Letter Template

Dear Parent of _____,

Your child recently took the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT®). The CogAT® provides a rich source of information about the best way to support your child's learning. We are sharing your child's CogAT® scores with you as well as his or her 3rd grade teacher to help you both support your child's learning in the most effective way.

There are many ways that you and your child's teacher can use CogAT® scores to support your child's growth. For example, some children thrive in a highly structured learning environment, while others thrive when they can be self-directed learners who are given a great deal of flexibility. Some children do not readily think of strategies for solving problems, but are much more successful when taught strategies and given plenty of time to practice them. Other children, however, use their own strategies and actually do worse when they are required to use a different strategy.

Your child's CogAT® profile score is: _____

For detailed information about your child's learning characteristics and instructional suggestions that s/he will benefit from, go to www.cogat.com and type in the above profile score. A report will be generated with customized instructional suggestions for your child. We think you will find this information to be extremely helpful in understanding how your child learns, and how you can best support his or her learning. Using these recommendations, noticing how your child responds, and making adjustments based on responses will help you to help your child make learning more enjoyable and productive.

What does the CogAT® measure?

The CogAT® measures learned reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. Reasoning skills develop gradually throughout a person's lifetime, and at different rates for different individuals. CogAT® does not measure such factors as effort, attention, motivation, and work habits, which contribute to school achievement as well.

The **verbal** battery measures a child's ability to remember and transform sequences of English words, to understand them, and to make inferences and judgements about them.

The **quantitative** battery tests the child's understanding of basic quantitative concepts and relationships that are essential for learning mathematics. Tasks measure both the understanding of relational concepts and the student's ability to discover relationships and figure out a rule or principle that explains them.

The **nonverbal** battery measures reasoning using pictures and geometric shapes. This reduces the impact of language on the student's score. The nonverbal battery also appraises the student's ability to use her/his cognitive resources in new situations.