Quick start teacher guide to using TAPS Focused Assessments

When using the Teacher Assessment in Primary Science (TAPS) resources for supporting science teaching and assessment, start by trying some TAPS plans with your class.

1. **CHOOSING A FOCUS**
   - Look at the Focused Assessment Overview.
   - Select a TAPS plan linked to your science topic, your Working Scientifically Focus or your pupils’ needs.
   - Two-thirds through your topic is a good time: info can then be used formatively and summatively.

2. **PREPARING**
   - Use the TAPS plan to prepare the lesson for your class, maintaining the skill focus.
   - Familiarise yourself and any supporting adults with the assessment indicators, choice of recording and questions to support discussion.

3. **ORGANISING**
   - Organise the class in a way which will both: help the children to use the focused skill and help you to observe and talk to the children during the activity (e.g. small groups/pairs).

4. **FOCUSED RECORDING**
   - Choose a way of recording the focused skill which is appropriate for the task and the pupils, e.g. post-it pupil comments, photos, pupil presentations, written work, peer review...

5. **USING EVIDENCE**
   - Compare pupil outcomes with Assessment Indicators.
   - Use judgements to plan next steps for class and individuals.

6. **MODERATING**
   - Discuss and compare pupil outcomes and judgements with colleagues to enhance reliability, supported by criteria and exemplars.

7. **SUMMARY ASSESSMENT**
   - Collating evidence about pupil skills and concepts from FA alongside a range of other class activities (e.g. from floor books, pupil books, teacher class discussion notes) helps to provide a valid & reliable summary.

---

**TAPS Focused Assessment overview, plans and TAPS pyramid available on the PSTT website here:** [pstt.org.uk/resources/curriculum-materials/assessment](http://pstt.org.uk/resources/curriculum-materials/assessment)