**Assessing Learning**

In my intro to education textbook, a question was phrased. “How will I know if my students have reached my learning goals?” The answer that was proposed was that through assessments we can know where our students are in accordance to the goals we have set for them.

 What does it mean to assess student learning? It means to check in and see how your student is doing. The textbook also explained that there are typically two types of assessments, informal and formal. An informal assessment is that process of gathering information and making decisions during the course of learning activities. A formal assessment is the process of systematically gathering the same kind of information from all students, just through quizzes or tests. There are different standards and goals that we want our students to reach. Through tests and other forms of assessment, we are able to track where they are so we as teachers know what we need to do to help them.

 I believe that assessments are very effective. Not only can we see how our students are doing, but we can see how we as teachers are doing. When assessments are in the form of a test, that can be stressful for the student. I believe we don’t have to make assessments seem so scary and stressful. This way, students are more relaxed when taking them because they understand the purpose of participating in these assessments.

 I believe that an effective teacher will have the desire to know where their student is and know what it is that they can do to help them improve. I also feel that assessments are a good way for the student realize the areas that they need to work on more. This is a great way for them to keep motivated and to strengthen any weak subjects they may have.

 I feel that both assessments are important and necessary. The informal assessment should be taking place all the time. I, as a teacher, must constantly be trying to gage where my students are throughout the day so I can know exactly what I need to touch on more or maybe even less. The formal assessments should be given often as well. This way we can track more accurately the progress of a student. I also feel that if the formal assessments are given often, we are setting the students up for success. My goal as a teacher is to help my students progress and reach their full potential. I believe that assessing student learning is a key part everyone’s success.