

Lexion Assessment

My name is Anita Almgren and I have worked as a teacher for more than 30 years. My experience is not only long, but also rather diversified, as I have been teaching in all the three stages of the nine-year compulsory school, in the upper secondary school and the adult education. After 10 year as a primary school teacher, I continued my education in languages (Italian, English and Swedish A) and finished my degree in Special Education. In the upper secondary School I worked with pupils having difficulties in one way or another. For example, there were immigrant pupils that had not received enough Swedish education, pupils with overall difficulties and diagnosed dyslexics. We had got the program Lexion installed and it proved to be of great assistance to all the kind of pupils that I met in my work.

Three years ago, I entered upon my duties in the English School in Gothenburg. Here in the teaching of Swedish children from year 2–9, most with one or both parents having another language background than Swedish. Some of our pupils have English as their native language, while others may have three languages. There are 32 nations represented in the school. Lexion had just been installed in the English school when I arrived, but it was not used as none of the teachers had received any education or tried to get familiar with it. I got the opportunity to freshen up my knowledge and supplement our installation with the new additions that had come out, among other things, the Lexion Assessment tool.

Our first version of Lexion Assessment, only included tests for up to 9 years. But during this autumn, we have received the part for the intermediate level, which was much longed after in order to also diagnose the older children. Lexion Assessment is enormously time saving for me as a teacher, as the program automatically selects appropriate exercises for the pupil, having been tested. I need only press the button, instead of having to try to find exercises in the list database, as before.

The statement that Lexion Assessment renders about the tested individual is of course not comprehensive, but it gives a good indication of the type of problems, and most often confirms my own opinion about the pupil's difficulties. When the pupil has been training the proposed exercises enough, I can enter the program and remove them or change the level of difficulty, exactly in the same way as if I had chosen the exercises myself. Several of the pupils have got an exercise CD to bring home, and in that way have been able to train even more efficiently, than if only during lesson. Many exercises have shown to be good for not only Swedish children with reading-and writing difficulties, but also work excellently for children with another native language. Besides, there are exercises especially adapted for the immigrant education.

All the pupils enjoy working with Lexion and feel that they learn in a more enjoyable and exciting way. With great interest, they check their charts and their logbooks that I print, noticing how their results most often improve by each exercise occasion.

Lexion assessment is a computer-based educational aid that I highly recommend, but with the condition that the teachers in charge have been thoroughly educated in the use of the program, and follow the reasoning that it is based upon.