



HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD PREPARE FOR STANDARDIZED TESTS

Attitude is everything. Help your student have a positive attitude toward school and test taking in particular by emphasizing that it's just one part of the learning experience. Remind them that a test is simply a measuring stick to see how much they have learned,- not how much they have not learned."

Become knowledgeable about the tests your child takes. Tests assess a child's knowledge at a particular point in time. Be sure that your child has completed the day-by-day schoolwork upon which tests are based. Teachers will send information home about testing schedules and class preparation plans.

Well Rested! Whenever a test will be given, make sure that your child gets plenty of sleep the night before the test; has a good breakfast.

Adjust your routine. A week or so before testing begins, get your children on an earlier routine. Eat dinner at a regular time, get them to bed earlier at a consistent time and then get them to school just a little earlier in the morning. Carry that through test week. With a routine in place, test week will seem less intense for both you and your child.

If your child has struggled with a particular area or subject in the past, you may be able to help her/him overcome some of that difficulty by providing some extra practice. Many workbooks target test preparation by offering practice exercises and questions like the ones students see on the test. The Ohio Dept. of Education website has many resources examples of past test questions.

Give your child a chance to practice

If your child has trouble taking tests, try practicing test questions and studying standardized test question formats words. Keep the sessions short, and set small, manageable goals so that the extra practice boosts your child's confidence.

Some general skills your child will be tested on in reading and math in grades 3-5.

Reading:

- Context clues: Read a sentence with an unfamiliar word in it, and determine the meaning of the word by looking at the “clue words” surrounding it.
- Words: prefixes, suffixes, synonyms, antonyms, homophones, multiple-meaning words, compound words, and contractions
- Main idea and supporting details (This is a highly-measured skill on the reading test.)
- Order of events
- Plot: the beginnings, middle events, and endings of stories
- Coming to conclusions about what you have read
- Cause and effect
- Comparing and contrasting: seeing what is similar and different about two topics, characters, events

Math:

- Number Sense: Computation, comparing the relative value of numbers, multi-step word problems
- Measurement/Geometry
- Interpreting charts, graphs, tables.
- Probability/estimation