

HELPING CHILDREN LEARN TO TAKE TESTS

QUESTION: What can I do to help my child become more confident when taking a test?

ANSWER: Parents can play a part in helping children take tests successfully. Teach your child to prepare over an extended period of time, and encourage your child to follow these proven tips.

1. Read all assignments, take notes, and do the homework. Stay current on all classwork.
2. Determine what type of a test will be given. Preparation for a true-false or multiple choice test is different from preparation for an essay test. Objective type tests require some memorization and recall of facts, dates, and details. Subjective tests require knowledge of concepts and supporting details.
3. Organize to study for a test. Gather together notes, all homework assignments and quizzes, and textbook materials.
4. Study over an extended period of time. Review the material by reading the text, studying notes, and correcting errors on quizzes and homework papers. Begin this process several days before the test, or as soon as you know a test will be given.
5. Make your own new set of notes. Jot down important information from the textbook and class notes. Memorize necessary facts and dates.
6. Ask a parent or a friend to quiz you on the material. Answer practice questions and clarify mistakes.

Once this preparation is complete, your child will be ready to take a test. Final test day preparations should include:

- * Get a good night's sleep.
- * Get up early enough to have a relaxed morning.
- * Eat a good breakfast.
- * Do a last minute review.
- * Be prepared for the test with pencils, paper, etc.
- * Listen carefully and follow all directions.
- * Look over the test before answering questions.
- * Don't spend too much time on any one question.
- * Check your work when you are finished.