

Test-Taking Tips for Elementary Students

Tests are useful because they help the teacher evaluate a student's needs and progress, the student gauge his or her own level of mastery, and the parent monitor his or her child's progress.

Tips to give your child about taking tests:

- Relax - do the best you can.
- A first choice is usually correct-don't change an answer unless you have a good reason to do so.
- Be aware of key words such as "all," "now," "always," "never," "only," "exactly."
- In multiple-choice questions, read all potential answers carefully before choosing.
- Watch for negative words like "not," "no," "never."
- Stuck? Can't remember? Skip the question and look for information in other questions.

You can assist your child prepare for testing by doing the following:

- ✓ Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats properly the day of a test.
- ✓ Try to make the morning of the test a pleasant one. Do not add to your child's stress.
- ✓ Make sure your child has taken any needed medication.
- ✓ Ensure that your child is present during testing, if at all possible.
- ✓ Get your child to school on time the day of the test.
- ✓ Wish your child the best each morning of testing. Tell your child that s/he is special and that you believe in her/him . . . it means so much!
- ✓ Remind your child to do his/her best.
- ✓ Remind your child to listen to the instructions from the teacher and to read the directions and each question carefully.
- ✓ Explain to your child the importance of using time wisely. If your child gets stuck on a question, encourage him or her to make the best guess and move on or skip it for now and come back later.
- ✓ Encourage your child to stay focused on the test, even if other students finish early.
- ✓ If your child is too ill to attend, please notify the school.