

Supporting Common Core State Standards

Prepare your child for standardized tests

Your child may soon be taking standardized tests aligned with the Common Core State Standards. These tests are used to measure student performance across the country. While the tests will be different than the ones your child has taken in the past, the way to prepare for them remains the same. You can help your child do his best on standardized tests by sharing these test-taking strategies:

Before the test ...

In the months preceding the test you should:

- **Find out the dates of the tests.** Write the dates and times on your calendar. Avoid scheduling appointments or trips during these times.
- **Ask the teacher** what you can do at home. Before some state tests, the teacher might ask you to help review math facts or social studies terms, for example.
- **Encourage your child** to read, read, read. This is the easiest and best way to prepare her to do well on tests.

Right before the test, make sure your child:

- **Gets a good night's sleep.**
- **Eats a healthy breakfast.**
- **Dresses in layers.** She will do better on a test if she doesn't have to think about how hot or cold she is.
- **Knows that it's important** to do her best.
- **Knows you believe in her.** Say things like, "I believe in you and I know you have the skills to succeed on this test."



During the test ...

During the test, your child should:

- **Read the instructions carefully.** Then he should read them again to make sure he knows exactly what he is supposed to do.
- **Read through all questions** quickly before starting. He should think about how much time he has and decide how much time he can spend on each question.
- **Read each question** carefully as he begins the test. He should make sure he understands exactly what he is required to do before he answers the question.
- **Look for direction words** that tell him what to do. Direction words are words like *compare*, *support*, *describe*, *define* and *summarize*.
- **Skip a question** if he isn't sure of the answer. He should answer all of the questions he knows first. Then he can come back to the others.
- **Allow time to go back** and check his answers. Do they make sense? Are his sentences complete?