



Parent Resource Newsletter



Why Test?

Test. It's a loaded word. Important...something to care about...something that can mean so much we get apprehensive thinking about it.

It's helpful for a child to understand why schools give tests. And to know the different kinds of tests.

Tests are yardsticks. Schools use them to measure, and then improve education. Some tell schools that they need to strengthen courses or change teaching techniques. Other tests compare students by schools, school districts, or cities. All tests determine how well "your child" is doing. And that's very important.

Most of the tests your child will take are "teacher-made." That is, teachers design them. These tests are associated with the grades on report cards. They help measure a student's progress--telling the teacher and the student whether he or she is keeping up with the class, needs extra help, or, perhaps, is far ahead of other students.

Now and then your child will take "standardized" tests. These use the same standards to measure student performance across the country. Everyone takes the same test according to the same rules. This makes it possible to measure each student's performance against that of others. The group with whom a student's performance is compared is a "norm group" and consists of many students of the same age or grade who took the same test.

Tests are important, especially to school children. A test may measure a basic skill. It can affect a year's grade. Or, if it measures the ability to learn, it can affect a child's placement in school. So it's important to do well on tests.

Besides, the ability to do well on tests can help throughout life in such things as getting a driver's license, trying out for sports, or getting a job. Without this ability, a person can be severely handicapped.

Your child can develop this ability. And you can help your child do it. Families can be a great help to students in both long and short-term test preparation.

Resource: Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

Helping Your Child Succeed in School

Practice Test-Taking Skills at Home:

There are a number of skills that you can easily incorporate into your home routine. Below is just one way to help your student:

- **Incorporate "test taking" behavior into homework activities.** Most standardized tests are timed. They also encourage children to skip items they don't know and come back to them later. When you oversee your child's homework, encourage him to do the same thing--to skip items he doesn't know and come back to them. When appropriate, time certain activities (math worksheets, for example). Standardized tests require students to follow directions. Encourage your child to read the directions on the homework and repeat them to you to make sure he or she understands them.

Important Testing Dates Coming Up:

Grades 3, 4 and 5 Ohio Achievement Testing

- Grade 3 Reading – Thursday, April 28
Math – Wednesday, May 4
- Grade 4 Reading – Wednesday, April 27
Math – Friday, April 29
- Grade 5 Reading – Tuesday, April 26
Math- Tuesday – May 3
Science – Thursday, May 5

Fun Facts to Know:



The state tree in Ohio is the Ohio Buckeye. Its name came from Native Americans who noticed that the glossy brown seeds looked very similar to the eye of a buck (male) deer.

April is Arbor Day Month

Arbor Day is a U.S. celebration that encourages the importance of planting and caring for trees. It has been over 135 years since J. Sterling Morton founded Arbor Day. His simple idea of setting aside a special day for tree planting is now more important than ever.

Arbor is celebrated in Ohio on the last Friday in April; this year being **April 29th**.

This Month's Family Activity

April is **National Poetry Month** and with it brings showers of opportunities to celebrate the well-chosen word. We list here a small sprinkling of family fun ideas raining down for you and your family to celebrate this special month:

- **Rhythm and Rhyme:** Start with humorous poems that rhyme. The humor will hook your children and the rhythm of the rhyme helps with their reading. What better way than with rhymes you and your children make up? Depending on kids' ages, you may do just a couple of lines, and finding rhymes may be more important at this stage than making sense: "The sky is blue, and I've got the flu," or "Apples in the bag, salute the flag." A favorite book of many; *"A Foot in the Mouth: Poems to Speak, Sing and Shout,"* introduces Whitman, Lear, Milne and many others, new and classic. It is illustrated with vivid and witty artwork by Chris Raschka.
- **Engaging Children with Poetry:** Make it FUN! Share the funniest poems you can find with your children. Dress up. Act them out. Use a booming voice or a whisper or a creaky old voice or a French accent or whatever is appropriate for the poem you are sharing.
- **Memorize and recite.** Have children memorize their own favorite poems and recite them aloud a dinner. Laughter and applause will have them wanting to do it again and again.
- **Celebrate holidays with poetry.** Valentine's Day, April Fool's Day, Halloween, birthdays, etc.; they all make great days for sharing fun poems.
- **Find a new favorite funny poet.** Familiarize yourself not just with Dr. Seuss and Shel Silverstein but with Jack Prelutsky, Douglas Florian, Colin McNaughton, Jeff Moss, and others.
- **Find poems that have definite parts where you and your child can take turns reading.** For example, using Shel Silverstein's *"The Meehoo with an Exactlywatt"* (from the book *A Light in the Attic*).

Site Review

Resources available for Parents and Families:

Website for learning and fun—for kids and parents together-- This month's website to see is:

Merriam-Webster's Word Central offers kids a student dictionary, Daily Buzzword, and interactive word games. Includes homework help and lesson plans for parents. Introducing...**Alpha-bot!** The word-spelling robot hosts the latest amazing word game and challenges spellers of all ages. **WebSite:** www.WordCentral.com

Kids Corner

It's Earth Day! Let's Come Together to Make a Difference.



Earth Day is a day that is intended to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's natural environment. Earth Day is celebrated around the world on **April 22**. Some cities start celebrating a week in advance, ending the recognition of Earth Week on April 22nd. Others host month long events to stress the importance of teaching about our environment.

Can I do something to help the planet on Earth Day?

Of course you can! Everything you do to help the planet counts, whether you walk to school or help to clean up litter from your neighborhood park! The most important thing to remember is that Earth Day should be every day! Below are ways you can celebrate **Earth Day 2011**:

- **Litterless Lunches:** See if you can make the least amount of trash at lunchtime. Pack fresh fruit, and sandwiches or food items in reusable containers.
- **Schoolyard or Community Clean-Up:** Enlist your friend or family to take a walk around school or your neighborhood and pick-up any garbage you may see.
- **Plant Native Trees and Flowers:** Spruce up your yard or local park to keep the planet healthy. Make sure to remove weeds manually and not use pesticides.

Here are our 2010-2011 Title I Contacts:

- Davey School – Consultant, Mrs. Jeanie Hiestand (330-676-7462)
- Holden School – Consultant, Mrs. Katrina Kelling (330-676-8433)
- Longcoy School– Consultant, Mrs. Caren Young (330-676-8350)
- Walls School – Consultant, Mrs. Katrina Kelling (330-676-8300)
- Franklin School – Consultant, Mrs. Caren Young (330-676-8450)
- Parent Involvement Coordinator – Ms. Pam Bose (330-676-7425)



*April Showers bring
May flowers !!*

**Parents
plus
Schools
equals
Success**