



# Parent Resource Newsletter

## Help Your Child Improve in Test-Taking

*American children must be ready to learn from the first day of school. And of course, preparing children for school is a historic responsibility of parents.*

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

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 then to do it. Just try some of the simple tips below:

### Eleven Tips to Help Your Child Prepare for Tests

To help children prepare adequately for tests (whether teacher made or standardized), you can do several things to provide support and create a positive test-taking experience.

1. The best way to prepare for tests is to study, know the work, and take the right courses.
2. If your child is nervous at test time, ask her teacher for tips on helping her relax.
3. Make sure that your child is in school during the testing sessions. Do not plan any doctor or dental appointments on test dates.
4. Make sure that you are aware of your child's performance and that you can help interpret the results when they become available.
5. Remember to keep well-informed about your child's tests. Know how test results are used, and how they will affect your child's placement in school.
6. If there are major differences between standardized test scores and school grades, find out why.
7. Encourage your child to study over a period of time rather than "cram" the night before.
8. Encourage your child to listen carefully to all test-taking directions given by the teacher and to ask questions about any directions that are unclear.
9. See that your child gets his/her regular amount of sleep before the tests and is well-rested.
10. Make sure that your child eats his/her usual breakfast on the day of the test. Hunger can detract from a good test performance.
11. Encourage your child to do his/her best.

*Resource: American School Counselor Association*

## WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

### Helping Your Child Succeed in School

#### Parent Tip - Ask the School

It could be useful for you to know the school's policies and practices on giving standardized tests and the use of test scores. Ask your child's teacher or guidance counselor about the kinds of tests your child will take during the year--and the schedule for testing.

One other thing: some schools give students practice in taking tests. This helps to make sure that they are familiar with directions and test format. Find out whether your child's school gives "test-taking practice" on a regular basis or will provide such practice if your child needs it.

*Resource: U.S. Department of Education; Office of Educational Research and Improvement*

#### Did You Know ?



**St. Patrick's Day is observed on March 17<sup>th</sup> because that is the feast day of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.**

#### ♣ ♣ **Facts About St. Patrick and the Irish**

- **St Patrick was born in 385 AD.** At age 16, he was captured and sold into slavery to a sheep farmer. He escaped when he was 22 and spent the next 12 years in a monastery. In his 30s he returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary. It is believed he died on March 17<sup>th</sup>; 461 AD.
- **St Patrick's Day is a worldwide celebration** of Irish culture and history and a national holiday in Ireland.
- **36.5 million U.S. residents claimed Irish ancestry** in 2007, more than eight times the 4 million-plus population of Ireland itself. The only ancestry reported more often was German. Massachusetts residents were twice as likely to claim Irish ancestry as the nation overall, with a rate of 24 percent compared with 12 percent.
- **The name "leprechaun" has several origins.** It could be from the Irish Gaelic word "*leipreachan*," which means "a kind of aqueous sprite." Or, it could be from "*leath bhrogan*," which means "shoemaker."
- **One estimate suggests** that there are about 10,000 regular three-leaf clovers for every lucky four-leaf clover. **Legend says that each leaf of the clover means something:** the first is for hope, the second for faith, the third for love and the fourth for luck. ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

**Monthly tips for parents**  
**MORE on Preparing Your Child for Testing**

**How to help**

Take a deep breath. Step away from the flashcards. As a parent, the most important way you can help your child do well on tests is to read with your child regularly, talk with her about her experiences, and provide a quiet work space at home. When well-meaning parents focus too much on test results, they put undue pressure on young children. For kids who struggle with attention or memorization tasks, testing can be extremely stressful because it requires students to draw entirely on these skills.

**To help prepare for routine classroom assessments:**

- Provide a variety of books, children's magazines, and enriching experiences to spark your child's curiosity and build vocabulary
- Make sure your child gets time and space for homework
- Make sure your child gets enough rest and a well-balanced diet
- Consult with your child's teacher to find out if there are specific skills you can practice at home

**To help prepare for standardized tests:**

- Ask the teacher for the testing schedule and a practice test so that you can familiarize your child with the format ahead of time so he knows what to expect
- Respond to any concerns your child has with encouragement and support. Emphasize that there are lots of ways to express what you know, and that these tests are just one measure

Resource: By: [Reading Rockets](#)

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**School News**



**KENT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT SPRING BREAK**

Spring break for the Kent City School District is scheduled for March 25th through March 30<sup>th</sup>. Classes will resume on Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**STATE TESTING for ELA, Math, Science, & Social Studies**

for Grades 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> coming testing schedule:  
**Testing Window Days** – April 3<sup>rd</sup> to April 25<sup>th</sup>. Specific test days within the above window to be determined by each school building.

**Site Review**

**Resources available for Parents and Families:**

**WebMath-Content:** WebMath is a homework-helper Web site created by Discovery Education. It contains explanations and tools for learning and practicing dozens of math-related exercises, from simple functions to complex calculus. It is a powerful site with content that helps demystify challenging concepts. WebMath has tremendous potential for reinforcing concepts. Parent or teacher involvement is key when kids use this site for homework.

Check it out: [WebMath.com](http://WebMath.com)

**Kids' Corner – Family Activity**

**Fun St. Patrick's Day Learning Activities**



**Lucky Charms Math**

- Eat *Lucky Charms Cereal* for Breakfast and have some math fun at the same time. Take out handfuls of Lucky Charms cereal and place in a pile. Sort the charms by shape or color, count the number in each group and add the totals together on a worksheet. Estimate how many charms per box. Multiply pink times green, etc. You can create lots of math fun with the charms.

**Make a Leprechaun Trap**

- Create leprechaun traps as a family from items found around the house and yard. Take turns displaying your trap to each family member. Have each write a paragraph about how his/her trap works and give a presentation/demonstration to your family on St. Patrick's Day.

**Read a Book**

- Enjoy the leprechaun story *Jamie O'Rourke and the Big Potato* by Tomie DePaola, and find the "naughty" things that leprechauns do. Share the story with your family members.

Read more: [Educational St. Patrick's Day Activities | eHow.com](#)

**Here are the 2017-2018 Title I Contacts for our Title Program at Your School:**

**Literacy Coach; Mrs. Rachel Yohn:**

- Davey School (330-676-7409)
- Longcoy School (330-676-8379)

**Literacy Coach, Mrs. Kristin Garner:**

- Schoolwide Holden School (330-676-8400)
- Walls School (330-676-8300)

**Family Engagement Coordinator,**

- Ms. Pam Bose: All Schools (330-676-7425)

**Federal Grants Coordinator, Mrs. Karen**

- Rumley, Director of Instructional Program:  
 • All Schools (330-676-7600)  
 Program:  
 • All Schools (330-676-7600)



Parents  
 plus  
 Schools  
 equals  
 Success

and a Great Spring Break !