

# PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR TESTING

By: Debbie Thompson



## ATTITUDE

- A week or two in advance, tell the child what to expect.
- Try to set your child at ease. Be positive and let them know that testing is more to help show the parent/teacher what the child has been learning and if curriculum and teaching methods are working well.
- There are many good test practice books that you could use for review or actual test simulation.
- Find out if points are deducted for incorrect answers, weighted, or if it is best not to guess.

## PLAN YOUR TIME AND PLACE

- Secure a quiet place for the testing. Visit the place if it is unfamiliar but it is best if the child is in a place where he is comfortable.
- Perhaps they can meet the test administrator in advance if they are a stranger.
- Find out if the child is supposed to bring anything (ruler, calculator, paper, pencil, lunch, etc.)
- Get a good night's sleep, eat a good breakfast, and arrive early on testing day to give the child the best chance to be settled and at ease. If you act stressed, your child probably will too, so be calm and have a positive attitude.

## SCOPE AND SEQUENCE CAN HELP YOU REVIEW

You can Google or find on your state's department of education website what is covered in a scope and sequence for your child's grade. National scope and sequences, like in World Book encyclopedia, are compilations of the average curriculum across the nation and might not fit your exact curriculum or concentrations.

## GENERAL TEST TAKING TIPS

- Always read or listen carefully to the instructions.

- If the question is multiple-choice, and you can eliminate wrong answers, then choose the best answer that is left. (If you will lose points for incorrect answers, then perhaps you should not guess. If you want a true achievement score and not scores based on guessing then do not guess.)
- Skip the questions you don't know. Don't spend a lot of time on them. You can go back to them if there is time left when you finish the section.
- If the test is a bubble test, mark the bubble well. (It does not have to be perfect, thereby taking up too much time.) Do not put stray marks in the book or on the answer sheet and most importantly, be careful to mark the corresponding bubble to the correct question.
- Practice doing timed drills. There are timed drills on the Woodcock-Johnson test, and most nationally standardized achievement tests are timed. The ACT, CAT, Iowa, and Scholastic Aptitude Test are timed. The PASS and Stanford/10 are not.
- Review major terms in math and language arts. (Review terms like "in addition to, less than, sum, common denominator", and "noun, adverb, place, setting, voice, tense," etc.). Also review capitalization or punctuation rules.

## REMEMBER YOUR CHILD IS MORE THAN A TEST SCORE!

There are so many things NOT tested that make up who your child is. Nationally standardized achievement tests do not assess your child's character, spiritual maturity, giftedness with people or animals or sports, musical ability, other special talents or hobbies and so much more. Assure your child of their many gifts and that there is a special reason they are uniquely and wonderfully made! 🏠



*Debbie Thompson, ([www.TriangleEd.com](http://www.TriangleEd.com)) is Director of Triangle Education Assessments, LLC, which helps thousands of homeschoolers each year with their achievement, ability, career and practice test needs.*