

Help your middle schooler prepare for standardized tests

Spring is often also standardized-test time. If your preteen has such an exam on the horizon, start helping her prepare.

To help your preteen do her best on standardized tests:

- Do your homework. Find out as much as you can about the test ahead of time. What subjects will it cover? Will it take place in one day or span an entire week? What will the results mean for your preteen?
- Gather practice materials. Have your preteen ask her teacher if there is a sample test she can take at home. Books offering general tips on test-taking success can help, too. The best ones will include sample exercises that mimic the upcoming test.
- Ask about modifications. Does your preteen have a learning disability? Find out if it entitles her to any special testing accommodations. Taking the test in a quiet room or being given an un-timed exam may be the key to her test success.
- Practice test-taking strategies with homework. Get your preteen in "test mode" by having her practice the skills she'll need. For instance, students are often told to skip questions they don't know and come back to them later. Have her do the same thing with her daily assignments.

Reprinted with permission from the February 2010 issue of *Parents Still make the difference!*® (Middle School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2010 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: "Standardized Test Success," FamilyEducation.com, <http://school.familyeducation.com/educational-testing/teaching-methods/37502.html>.