

Reading for Success

Read for test success



Tests are an important part of your child's education, and research shows that your child is much more likely to succeed on tests if you are actively involved in developing your child's reading skills. You don't need to be a professional reading teacher to help your child. There are simple things you can do at home to boost those all-important skills.

Reading for fun counts

Results from a nationwide study of fourth graders showed that:

- » Students who read for fun *daily* scored higher than classmates who read less often.
- » Students who *never or hardly ever* read for fun made the lowest scores.
- » Students who had a variety of *reading materials in the home* had higher reading scores than others.

Practice reading for meaning

One of the most important skills for your child to learn is how to read for meaning. This is especially important on tests. Students don't just have to read test instructions—they need to understand them! Here's how you can help:

- » **Read an interesting article** together and take turns asking each other questions:
 - What are the main points?
 - What did you learn from the article?
 - What surprised you?
 - Does the writer have a strong opinion?
 - Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- » **Have your child:**
 - Reread the article to find answers.
 - Look up unfamiliar words.

Your child can also practice looking for key information on food labels, classified ads, kit instructions, etc.

Boost testing confidence

Many students find standardized tests of reading comprehension difficult and intimidating. You can help your child become more confident and successful if you share these simple strategies:

- » **Read the questions first** to anticipate what to look for as you read the passage.
- » **Underline parts of the passage** you think are important.
- » **Practice by creating sample** reading comprehension tests. Be sure to make the passages you choose look just like the ones you're likely to encounter on the actual test.

Look for key ideas

When your child is reading and studying for tests, you should encourage him to:

- » **Ask questions:** What's the main idea in this paragraph?
This page?
This chapter?
- » **Look for important** information and jot down key ideas. Note-taking is an important study skill to learn.



