

## Helping Your Child With Standardized Testing

Testing can be difficult for some children, but it is a skill they should master. Here are some pointers to help your child do his or her best when tested.

1. Talk to your child in advance about what the experience will be like. He or she will want to know if talking is permitted. Can questions be asked or breaks taken. Explain how many tests will be administered and how long each will take.

2. Provide practice materials or tests if your child is unfamiliar with the standardized testing format and offer suggestions on how to "attack" standardized test questions. For example, you should explain that if you don't know and answer, skip it, and come back to it later. If you simply do not know the answer, take an educated guess!

3. Make sure that your child is well-rested and has a healthy meal before testing. If your child is ill, try to reschedule the test.

4. Help your child find encouraging Scripture verses to memorize, such as Isaiah 26:3 or Philippians 4:13. Remember to pray before the test.

5. Announce plans for a special event or treat after the testing -- make the experience as positive as possible!

6. Stress the importance of the test and encourage your child to put forth his best effort, but emphasize that God will bring about the results He desires.