

# Helping Children Learn<sup>®</sup>

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



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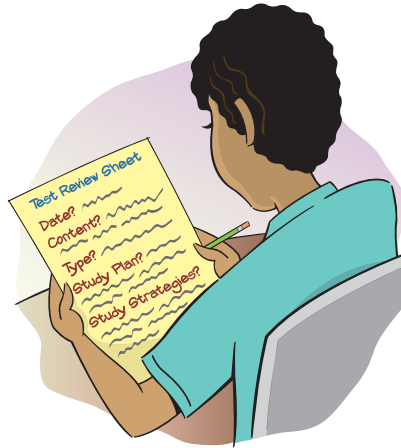
Valley Stream Christian Academy  
Leslie Fowley, Superintendent

## A review sheet is an action plan for test preparation success

Elementary school students are learning how to prepare for tests they have to take. But they don't always get it right. Some forget that they have a test coming up. Others study the wrong material.

One way to help your child prepare for tests effectively is to have him create a review sheet as part of his study routine. On it, your child should include:

- **The date of the test.**
- **The content of the test.** Will it cover a specific chapter, a set of vocabulary definitions or a class activity?
- **The type of test.** Will it be a multiple-choice, true/false or an essay test? Knowing the test type will help your child plan how to study. For an essay test, for example, he'll have to know more about a concept than he would if he just had to match a term with a definition.
- **His study plan.** Which days will he study? For how long? He should check the family calendar for conflicts and add his study times to it.
- **His study strategies.** Will he review using a study guide he got in class? Highlight his class notes? Make flash cards? Reread textbook chapters? Prepare sample questions? Study with a buddy? Your child should also be sure to follow any review methods suggested by the teacher.



## Link options to outcomes

The best way for students to learn to make good decisions is through practice. Offer your child plenty of choices. Just be sure that all the options are acceptable!

Children don't always connect outcomes with the choices they've made, so help your child think about the consequences of his decisions. If the outcome is negative, ask, "What will you do differently next time?"

## Help math facts add up

Math knowledge builds on itself. That's why it's so vital for your child to master basic math skills. To help, you can:



- **Encourage neatness.** Messy writing leads to errors.
- **Promote math fluency.** Make flash cards, and look online at sites such as [www.math-play.com](http://www.math-play.com) for games that let your child practice basic math facts.
- **Show her how to find the answer.** For example, if she doesn't know what  $3 \times 5$  is, your child can draw three horizontal lines, cross them with five vertical lines and count the intersections.



## Enhance your child's eagerness to learn

Parents can have a positive effect on their children's desire to learn. To inspire a love of learning in your child:

- **Be a learner yourself.** Let your child see you reading. Watch educational TV programs. Attend school functions. Tackle new projects. Show curiosity.
- **Share what you learn.** Talk about new ideas or scientific discoveries with your child. Discuss things you read and hear.
- **Believe your child can learn.** If you show faith in her abilities, she'll have confidence in them.
- **Show an interest** in what your child is learning. Ask questions simply to learn and have a conversation with your child—not just to quiz or check up on her.
- **Never give up on your child.** If your child struggles in school, stay calm. Help her see that problems can be solved. Figure out what your child can do to improve and how you and the teacher can help.

## Spring into April learning

April is full of special days you and your child can celebrate! Put these on the calendar:



- **April 2** is International Children's Book Day. Head to the library and grab some books!
- **April 15** is income tax deadline day. Talk about the purpose of taxes with your child. Practice calculating percentages.
- **April 22** is Earth Day. Think of things your family can do to protect the Earth.
- **April 30** is International Jazz Day. Listen to some jazz with your child and talk about how it makes each of you feel.

