

## Getting results

### Helping your child prepare for provincial tests

For students in primary and junior grades

#### Grade 3 and 6 students participate

All grade 3 and 6 children in publicly-funded schools across the province participate in the test. The testing takes place over 5 days in May. Children are tested in reading, writing and math. The tests are based on the grade 1 to 8 Ontario Curriculum.

#### Stay positive

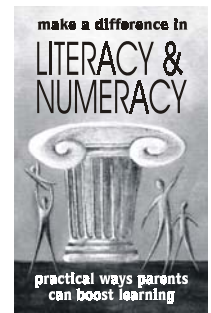
Here are a few things you can do to help your child stay positive about the test:

- Limit your child's absences from school.
- Schedule appointments outside the assessment period.
- Ensure that your child gets a good night's sleep and eats breakfast.
- Ensure that your child arrives at school on time.
- Speak positively about the test. Say things like, "It will be fun" or "I bet it's going to be interesting."

#### Learning For Life (Not just for EQAO)

It's important that you promote lifelong learning and not just learning during test time.

- Show an interest in your child's schoolwork by talking about what he has done
- Ensure a consistent time and place for homework
- Check that she is completing her homework regularly and properly
- Help him with his homework. Don't do it for him!
- Include her in planning family activities. Have her work out the timing, sequence of events, things you'll need, etc.



- Encourage your child to think about the work he's done. Have him ask himself the following questions:
  - Have I done what I was supposed to do?
  - Can I add any details to clarify my thinking?
  - Have I communicated what I wanted to?

#### Talk about books as you read them together



- Read aloud to your child beginning in infancy.
- Continue to read aloud even when your child is able to read on her own. You will be able to share books that are rich in new vocabulary and have deeper story lines.
- Stop and talk about the book. Make predictions, talk about new words and ask questions.
- Have your child retell the story.
- Have your child relate the story to her own experiences.
- Encourage your child to read non-fiction texts as well as fiction.

#### Find different reasons for writing



- Encourage your child to write for different purposes, e.g. lists, recipes, letters, reports, stories, instructions.
- Focus on your child's strengths and remember that learning to write well is a difficult process.
- Encourage risk taking.
- Praise his attempts.
- Encourage "pre-writing" strategies, e.g. brainstorm ideas, make a plan, draft an outline.
- Try not to correct all your child's mistakes. Help them look back at their own work carefully.

## Use Math Daily

- Help your child see practical applications for math, e.g. cooking, building, planning, shopping.
- Encourage your child to estimate first, then figure it out.
- Encourage your child to problem solve. Sometimes there is more than one right answer!
- Encourage your child to communicate how the problem was solved. Have her use numbers, pictures and words to explain.
- Remember that math is more than just addition and subtraction. There are five strands in the Ontario math curriculum: numeration, measurement, patterning and algebra, data management and probability, and geometry.

### It's just one method of assessment

Although EQAO offers valuable information about your child's learning it is only one piece of the picture. Classroom assessments are crucial to improving student learning. The levels achieved on EQAO will not be reflected on your child's report card.



### For more information

For further information on grade 3 and 6 testing, you can visit the Education Quality and Accountability Office's web site at [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com). Click on "Parent Handbook". You can also visit the Peel board web site at [www.peelschools.org](http://www.peelschools.org).

