
Spring 2019

Region 5 Parent and Family Engagement Newsletter

350 Pine St. #500 Beaumont, TX 77701

www.esc5.net / Jennifer Smith, jesmith@esc5.net

Title III, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), aims to ensure that English learners (ELs) and immigrant students attain English proficiency and develop high levels of academic achievement in English. Title III will also assist all English learners meet the same challenging State academic standards that all children are expected to meet.

Summer Reading

According to Jim Trelease's publication of *Summer Reading*, the adage "If you don't use it, you lose it," proves true for children who spend a summer without books and reading. Without reading role models and someone to read to them, without printed material, and new experiences, the reading skills grow rusty. How can we prevent the traditional summer reading loss?

Most libraries have summer reading programs, make sure your child is enrolled and participates. Take your child on field trips – even if you just visit local places like a fire station, the museum, or the zoo, and talk and listen. As for availability of books, the public library has all the books you could want – for free.

In the article, *Why Reading to Your Kids in Your Home Language Will Help Them Become Better Readers*, by Lydia Breiseth, she answers the following question. As a parent, should we be reading to our children in their native language or English? You may be afraid that reading to them in their native language will confuse



Raise a Lifetime Reader

Make sure you (the adult role model) are seen reading daily. It works even better if you read at the same time as the child.

For young children, looking at pictures in books and turning pages qualifies as "reading." We become picture-literate before we become print-literate.

Allow children to choose the books they wish to read to themselves.

Don't take that vacation car trip without recorded book on board. They can be checked out at the local library and they count too!

Set some time parameters, short at first and longer as the children get older and read more.

Newspapers and magazines, even comic books, should count toward reading time.

them as they try to learn English, and that it will make it harder for them to read in English. You may also be concerned that you shouldn't read to them in English if you don't feel comfortable with your own English skills. While it is important to encourage and support your child's efforts to learn English, research shows that children who are read to in their native language (such as Spanish) will have an easier time learning to read in their second language (such as English). The benefits are even greater for children who learn to read first in their native language. This means that by developing your child's literacy skills in their first language, you will be making it easier for them to learn to speak, read, and write English in the future.

Creating a rich language environment at home in your family's native language will stimulate your child's cognitive, linguistic, and social development, and will enforce his/her early literacy skills. Libraries, bookstores, and community centers in your neighborhood may offer books in different languages that you can read with your children. Even if you can't purchase books to take home, you can make special "reading trips" to these places to enjoy books with your children. If you can't find any children's books in your native language in your community, talk with other parents about ways to create a collection of books or native language resources that many families can enjoy.

So when you see native language books at your library or bookstore, don't hesitate to pick them up and take them home — they may be just what you need to get your child on the road to reading and to becoming a successful English language learner!

Resource: colorincolorado.org



Creating a Print-Rich Environment in Your Native Language:

- Reading books in your native language with your child on a daily basis
- Talking about the stories you have read together
- Playing rhyming games and singing songs in your home language together
- Encouraging your child to write in their first language
- Keeping print material in your home such as books, greeting cards, magazines, and newspapers
- Exposing your child to games, puzzles, and music in your native language
- Encouraging your child to use their native language to tell stories
- Expanding your child's vocabulary by teaching him/her new words, pointing out and naming objects, and helping him/her improve pronunciation
- Visiting the public library regularly to check out books and other resources

Winter 2019

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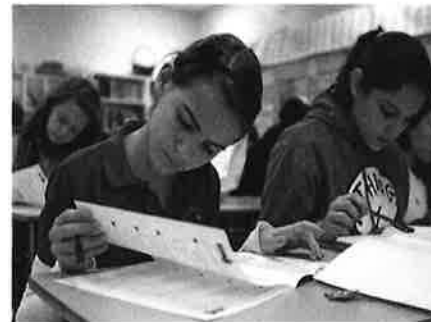
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How to Help Your Child Prepare for Standardized Tests: TELPAS

One tool that schools use to learn about students is the standardized test. Understanding the role of testing will help you to enable your child to succeed in school and to develop a better relationship between your family and your child's school.

Standardized tests are designed to give a common measure of students' performance. Because large numbers of students throughout the state take the same test, they give educators a common yardstick or "standard" of measure. Educators use these standardized tests to tell how well school programs are succeeding or to give themselves a picture of the skills and abilities of today's students.

The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) is an assessment program for students in Texas public schools who are learning the English language. Texas annually assesses the English proficiency of students identified as English learners (ELs) in four language domains – listening, speaking, reading, and writing.



How are the TELPAS language domains assessed?

In grades K-1, TELPAS includes holistically-rated listening, speaking, reading, and writing assessments based on ongoing classroom observations and student interactions. Teachers use specific language proficiency guidelines to determine whether your child is at the beginning, intermediate, advanced, or advanced high stage of learning English. In grades 2-12, TELPAS includes online reading and listening and speaking tests and holistically-rated writing collections.

Who takes TELPAS?

Students in K-12 that have been identified as EL including those whose parents have declined BIL/ESL Services.

What do TELPAS results tell we about my child?

Every student that participates in TELPAS receives a report card with their test results. TELPAS uses 4 proficiency ratings – Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, and Advanced High to show the progress the student makes from year to year.

When is TELPAS given?

The assessment window is February 25-April 5, 2019.

What Can You Do at Home?

There are a number of ways that you can maximize your child's learning capabilities throughout the school year, which can lead to confident test-taking. Some of these strategies include:

- Assisting your child with homework and ensuring that your child is completing all homework assignments
- Helping her to develop good study habits, thinking skills, and a positive attitude towards education from an early age
- Ensuring that your child has good attendance at school
- Staying in communication with your child's teacher
- Encouraging your child to read as much as possible, and to increase her vocabulary - even reading magazines, newspapers, and comic books regularly will help improve her reading skills
- Looking for educational games and programs that engage your child
- Helping your child learn how to follow directions carefully (Dietel, 2008; IRA (2002); Narang, 2008).

As you help your child do her best on the tests she takes and in all of her schoolwork, also remind her that testing is just one part of her education. With your support and involvement, she will be well on her way to her own bright future.

Resource: colorincolorado.org

Resources for TELPAS:

<https://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/ell/telpas/>

TELPAS FAQ for Parents – English

TELPAS FAQ for Parents – Spanish

<https://www.texasassessment.com/>

Learn more about your child's score

How to help your child succeed



English Proficiency Levels:

Beginning – Students who receive this rating are in the early stages of learning English. These students have a small vocabulary of very common words and little ability to use English in academic settings. These students often communicate using English they have memorized.

Intermediate – Students who receive this rating are able to use common, basic English in routine academic activities but need considerable English-language support to make learning understandable. Socially, these students are able to communicate simply about familiar topics and are generally able to understand conversations but may not comprehend all the details.

Advanced – Students who receive this rating are able to understand and use academic English in classroom activities when given some English-language support. In social situations, these students can understand most of what they hear but have some difficulty with unfamiliar grammar and vocabulary.

Advanced High – Students who receive this rating are able to use academic English in the classroom activities with little English-language support from others, even when learning about unfamiliar material. Student at this level have a large enough vocabulary in English to communicate clearly and fluently in most situations.

Fall 2018

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VISITING THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Helping your children to enjoy reading is one of the most important things you can do as a parent and is well worth the investment of your time and energy. Kids will learn reading skills in school, but often they come to associate reading with work, not pleasure. As a result, they lose their desire to read. In addition, it is that desire — the curiosity and interest — that is the cornerstone of learning how to use reading skills successfully.

It is important to remember that you can give your children this kind of experience even if you do not have many books in your home. Your local public library has an abundance of books, plus many other valuable resources.

Your library is one of the most important resources in your community, and anyone can use it. You and your family will find books, videos, music, newspapers, computers, and much more for kids and adults — for free! Many libraries are offering materials in different languages.



Getting Started at the Local Library

The library is a public service for the community. Visitors can borrow books and other items free from the library. Many libraries also have computers for public use.

The librarian can help you find materials and answer questions.

Homework Help

- Reference Materials
- Internet Help
- Computers
- Tutorials

Classes for Adults

- ESL Classes
- Tax Help
- Parenting Classes
- Computer Classes

* Check with your local library for more information.

What You Can Do at Home

As a parent, there are many ways that you can help your child succeed every single day! Helping your child get to school on time, get enough sleep at night, and be able to find homework all will make a difference in your child's day.

Ways to Help Your Child Succeed at School:

- **Develop a partnership with your child's teachers and school staff**
 - Meet your child's teacher.
 - Get to know who's who at your child's school.
 - Attend parent-teacher conferences and keep in touch with your child's teacher.
- **Support your child academically**
 - Find out how your child is doing.
 - Apply for special services if you think your child may need it.
 - Make sure that your child gets homework done.
 - Find homework help for your child if needed.
 - Help your child prepare for tests.
- **Get involved with your child's school**
 - Learn what the school offers.
 - Volunteer at your child's school and/or join your school's parent-teacher group.
- **Get informed and be an advocate for your child**
 - Ask questions.
 - Learn about your rights.
 - Let the school know your concerns.
- **Support your child's learning at home**
 - Demonstrate a positive attitude about education to your children.
 - Monitor your child's television, video game, and Internet use.
 - Encourage your child to read.
 - Encourage your child to use the library.
 - Encourage your child to be responsible and work independently.

Resource: colorincolorado.org



What we say and do in our daily lives can help our children to develop positive attitudes toward school and learning and to build confidence in themselves as learners. Showing our children that we both value education and use it in our daily lives provides them with powerful models and contributes greatly to their success in school.

Helping your child become a reader is the single most important thing that you can do to help the child to succeed in school and in life. Reading helps children in all school subjects. More important, it is the key to lifelong learning.

Teachers appreciate it when parents help out at the school! There are many ways you can contribute. At most schools, a group of parents meets regularly to talk about the school. This group is usually called the PTA or PTO. The meetings give you a good chance to talk with other parents and to work together to improve the school.