

8. Don't judge your child's abilities—or let others judge your child's abilities—on the basis of his score on a single test. Any test provides limited information about what your child knows and is able to do.

A more complete picture of your child's learning

Tests are far from perfect measures of what your child has learned at school, or of the quality of the school. At best, they only measure some of what he or she has learned. For this reason, tests are only one of the tools that teachers use to develop a complete picture of children's learning. A more complete picture of your child's learning also includes:

- The teacher's review of your child's daily work in class
- The teacher's observations of your child as he or she completes classroom assignments
- Conversations with you about how well your child is learning, and how the teacher can work with your child and with you to increase your child's school success.

Please remember that. . .

- You can, and should, ask your child's principal and teacher questions about the tests your child takes at school.
- You should receive clear and easy-to-understand information throughout the school year about your child's test performance.

- You can protect your child by ensuring that important decisions, such as promotion to the next grade level, are never based solely on a single test score.
- Test scores only provide a limited picture of what your child is learning. Your child's teacher can provide you with a more complete picture through report cards, notes sent home, or meetings with you.

Resources

"Helping Your Child Perform Well on Tests"
www.pta.org/archive_article_details_1117835382718.html

"Helping Your Child with Test-Taking — Helping Your Child Succeed in School"
www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/succeed/part9.html

"Eleven Tips to Help Your Child Prepare for Tests"
<http://school.familyeducation.com/educational-testing/teaching-methods/37499.html>

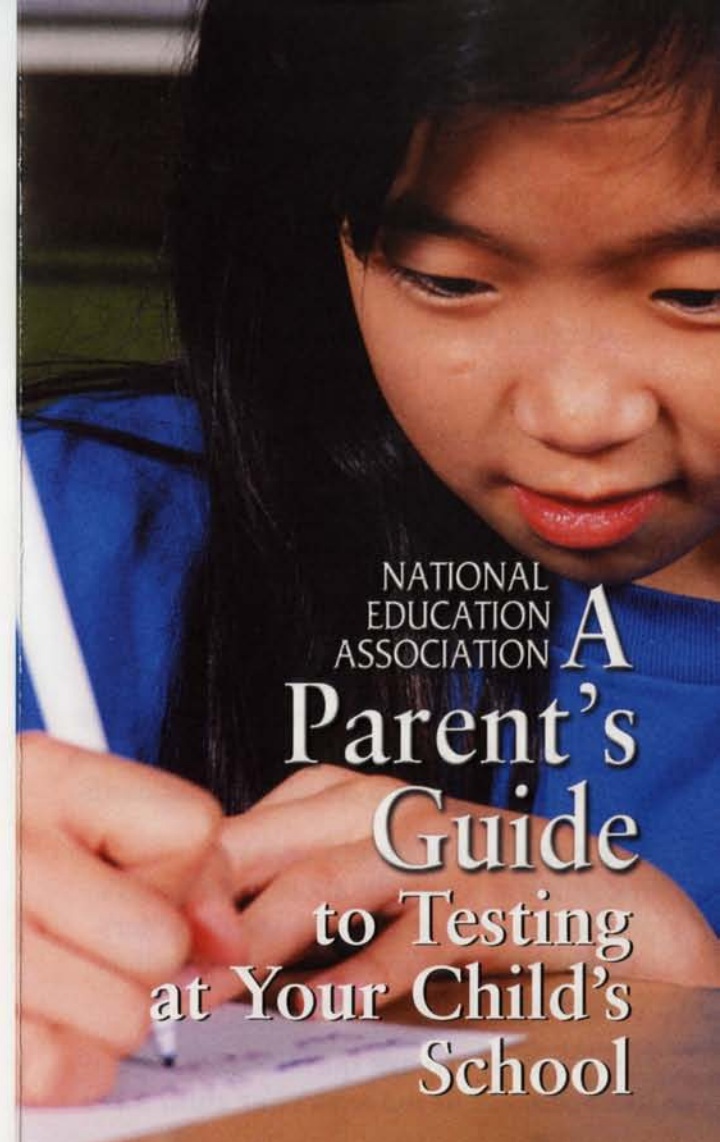
"Talking to Your Child's Teacher About Standardized Tests"
www.kidsource.com/kidsource/content2/talking.assessment.k12.4.html



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A Parent's Guide to Testing at Your Child's School

This guide was developed to help parents learn more about the different kinds of tests their children take during the school year.



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