**Test Taking Tips for Elementary Students**

**Tips to give your child about taking tests:**

* Relax. Just do the best you can.
* Your first choice is usually correct. Don't change an answer unless you have a good reason to do so.
* Be aware of key words such as "all," "now," "always," "never," "only," "exactly."
* In multiple-choice questions, don't skip the longest answer. It should be considered, since test writers want to be sure the correct answer is accurate - they may add lots of details to ensure accuracy.
* Watch for negative words like "not," "no," "never."
* Look for information in some of the questions. This information may help you answer other questions.

**PARENTS: You can assist your child's preparation in testing by doing the following:**

* Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep before a test, and make sure your child eats properly the day of the test.
* Maintain a pleasant home environment and avoid unnecessary conflicts. Try to make the morning of the test a pleasant one. Do not add to your child's stress.
* Make sure your child has taken any needed medication.
* Ensure that your child is present during testing (children generally perform better when taking tests with their class, rather than at a make-up time).
* Get your child to school on time the day of the test.
* Wish your child good luck each morning of the test. Tell your child that he/she is special and that you believe in him/her.
* Remind your child the test is important. Encourage him/her to do his/her best.
* If your child is too ill to attend, please call the school office.
* If the test is on a subject for which you can review (such as math formulas), help your child go over the material.
* Remind your child to listen carefully to the instructions from the teacher and to read the directions and each question carefully.
* Explain to your child the importance of using time wisely. If your child gets stuck on a question, encourage him or her to make the best guess and move on.
* Tell your child to attempt to answer all of the questions and not to leave any blank.
* Encourage your child to stay focused on the test, even if other students finish early.
* If your child is disappointed after taking a test, reassure him or her that there will be plenty of opportunities to improve and succeed.