



Standardized Testing and Bright Minds-Tips

Standardized testing has permeated our society for all ages, including some for 3 year olds at elite private pre-schools. While you may agree or disagree with its usefulness, likely you have to deal with it either for yourself or your child. If we're going to do something, let's do it well! We collected 5 great ways to ace that next test.

- 1) **Prepare – all year long.** Don't wait until the week before if you are unsure of the how you or your child will perform.
- 2) **Confidence-** You know the material through extended practice is the best way to do well. Ensure your child is doing her homework correctly during the year to avoid a large gap in understanding.
- 3) **Review** grades and reteach any objectives at home on which she did not test well.
- 4) **Communicate** with the teacher to ask for any areas you did not notice.

Bright Minds prepares students throughout the year by solidifying any holes and gaps in the foundation and building up from there. Our daily doses of practice of math word problems and multiple choice answers creates ability to dissect information and use strategies with finding answers. Avoid cramming as most things are best learned over a long period of time. **Read – early and often.** Reading for pleasure builds vocabulary and comprehension extremely well.

Presidential candidate, Dr. Ben Carson, changed the course of his life in 5th grade after his mother required him to read two books a week. Not surprising, considering this habit changes the volume of white matter in the language area of the brain.

Even students who usually excel can benefit greatly from preparation.

5) **Teach strategies.** You won't be able to give your child all the answers beforehand so you'll have to teach him HOW to find the solution. Read directions carefully. Reread stories and problems. Eliminate and mark out all the incorrect answers. Review answers again. Make notes in the margins where answers are found or underline important text. Write out what is known. And of course, do not rush! Students are trained and practice these skills every day at Bright Minds.

Bright Minds aims to help students become confident learners so they enjoy learning and apply better. Parental cooperation is a must in order to make smooth progress in the program.

Thanks!