

Preparing for the Georgia Milestones

Strategies and Tips to
Improve Student
Performance

There are things that you can review with your child to help them prepare for the Georgia Milestones!

The things that we are going over are not necessarily academic. These are more test taking hints that you can review with your child.

Power Point

Questions

Try The Test for Yourself!



HOW CAN
I
HELP
MY
CHILD

be well prepared for the test!

Familiarity leads to confidence.

- Fear of the unknown leads to test anxiety which leads to a lower test score!
- Achievement in school is largely due to self-confidence and attitude.
- You can help your child feel confident about test-taking!

Basic Testing Strategy

- Read the test question or statement carefully at least twice.
- Read all of the answer choices.
- Select the one that **best** answers the questions.
- If you don't know the best answer, use the process of elimination (P.O.E.)

Time is of the Essence!

- Students should not spend too much time on any one question.
- Should students answer every single question? **Absolutely!** There is no penalty for guessing.

Two-pass approach

- Using this approach, students go quickly through a subtest and answer those questions they know – leaving blank ones that they don't know immediately.
- The second time they go through the subtest, they should go a little slower, use the process of elimination, and then guess and move on!

Process of Elimination

- The Georgia Milestone is a multiple-choice test; thus, the right answer will be there! Students should eliminate (get rid of) the incorrect answers which will leave the correct answer.
- There is no guessing penalty for the Georgia Milestone...so go for it!

Example of Process of Elimination

How old was Martin Luther King
when he died?



- A. 85 years old (too old)
- B. 39 years old
- C. 57 years old
- D. 13 years old (a young boy)

LIVED: (January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968)

Another Example of P.O.E.

Juan had 24 baseball cards. He traded half of them for an action figure. He then traded half of the remaining cards for a matchbox car.

How many baseball cards does he have left?

- A. 8** baseball cards
- B. 0** baseball cards
- C. 6** baseball cards
- D. 26** baseball cards

(24 divided by 2 = 12. 12 divided by 2 = 6)

What if a student is good at solving math problems in his head?

- Do *not* try to solve anything in your head on a test! There is no point in it and little mistakes will happen.
- Make sure you write down all of your thinking and problem-solving on paper.
- This will eliminate a **LOT** of careless errors.

Georgia Milestones Reading Test

- Passages are fiction or nonfiction. They can be letters, poems, recipes, informational articles, folk tales, or other genres.
- On the Reading Test, multiple-choice questions fall into four general categories: main idea, word meaning, supporting details, and inferences.

Do students need to know the main idea of each passage?

- YES! Read to understand –not to remember.
- Think of this test as an open book test. Look back in the passage for detail questions.
- Hint: The title often gives the reader a good clue about the main idea.

Main Idea or Summarization Questions

- These questions are usually written something like, **“What is this story mostly about?”** or **“What’s the main idea?”** or **“Which sentence best tells about this story?”**
- The answer is not stated exactly in the story, so this is a “think about it” type question. Eliminate the choices that are just detail answers.

Word Meanings

- Some test questions will focus on the meaning of a word. The words chosen for these items are supposed to be new words, so it shouldn't bother you if you've never heard of the word.
- **Look back in the passage** and find the word in the sentence. The words in that sentence (or the sentence before or after) should give clues about the word meaning. Try replacing the word with one of the choices from the test.

Word Meaning Example

In the story, Alexander enjoyed staying at expensive hotels and eating at the best restaurants. His friends thought that he led an **extravagant** life.

Extravagant means

- A. cheap
- B. hard
- C. spending carelessly
- D. sad

Supporting Ideas or Details

- These test questions are about the little details in a story. For example: “What color was Timothy’s skateboard in the story?”
- **Go back to the story** and find the answer. Once again, it’s not important to remember the answer to these questions ...Look back and find the answer!

Inferences

- These questions force you to figure out something in the passage. There will be clues in the passage.
- The question may have the phrase “**most likely**” in it.

Example of Inference Question

- When the Smith children got home from summer camp, they noticed that the TV and VCR were not in the family room.

What **most likely** happened while they were away?

- A. Grandmother came for a visit.
- B. The dog ate them.
- C. There was a flood.
- D. Their parents moved them to another room.

How can I help my child improve his reading scores on the Georgia Milestones?

- Go to the library and read stories from children's magazines (like *Jack and Jill* or *Cricket*) with your child.
- Ask your child questions about the story to make sure he/she understands it.

On the Georgia Milestones, students should:

- Read the question and all of the answer choices carefully. Then select the best answer.
- Use P.O.E. to cross out incorrect answer choices.
- Guess and move on.

REMINDERS:

PLEASE: have your child at school each day!
be at school on time!
try not to schedule doctor appointments on these days!
help your child get off to a great start on testing mornings!