

Tips For Working With Your Child – From Parents Whose Kids Scored In the 97th Percentile or Higher

- We always kept our test prep fun and playful!
- We worked on building test-taking skills as much as we worked on the abilities that were being assessed. It took a while for our son to understand that he really had to listen to and remember the questions being asked and that the pictures represented answer choices. We taught him to listen to the instructions, look at all the answers, and eliminate what was clearly wrong.
- At first, my son could only sit still and focus for about 10 minutes; every day we added a few more minutes to our practice until he could focus for almost an hour! We would set an egg timer each time we worked, which my son loved.
- We spent a lot of time working on our son's listening and following directions skills because that was so important for test taking.
- When questions were hard for my daughter, I talked through the logic with her so that she would ultimately know how to solve each problem.
- I often pretended to be stumped by a question myself and let my child help me.
- We varied our test prep – sometimes my son answered questions on-line, sometimes we printed the pages in color and he pointed to answers on paper, sometimes we played the online games, sometimes we played IQ Fun Park – each different way we worked with the questions felt different to my son and he never got bored and never stopped learning.
- I kept track of what my daughter did well and what she didn't do well – we worked on the things she didn't do well outside of the test prep questions.
- When my child resisted doing questions, I knew she was tired. I always scheduled our practice sessions when she was full of energy or early in the day.
- We did a bit of prep every day over a long period of time – just a little bit each day made a big difference. We saw lots of improvement over time.

- We praised our daughter for trying and working hard, not for getting it right each time. We didn't want to get her used to getting praise for each right answer because we knew the test proctor wouldn't praise her each time.
- Our daughter is shy so we gave her a few sessions with one of the tutors you recommended so she'd be used to working with someone she didn't know well.
- We took our son to a tutor for an initial assessment. After the assessment, the tutor told us what to focus on when working with our son using your practice questions. Then, he had a few more tutoring sessions just so he could get extra help from a teacher on the things he didn't do so well. I think we found just the right combination of working with a tutor, and working with our child at home.
- We never called it test prep – We called it “Zany Brainy Games” or “Puzzlers.”
- We would practice for different reasons! Sometimes to teach our son how to think through questions, sometimes to give him a feel for answering questions in a test-like environment – then we'd give him limited praise or corrections!
- When our son got tired or didn't want to do more “games,” we stopped.
- We gave “treats” to our child after practice time (hugs, extra iPad time, stickers).
- We did the questions right from the site without printing them out and called it “online games,” which our son loved!
- During “Family Fun Time,” we had father-son competitions or contests between siblings using your questions, which my kids always enjoyed.
- We played against each other – Every right answer would earn a point. Whoever got 30 points first won the game. I made sure to answer some questions wrong, so my son would always win. He loved correcting me when I made mistakes!
- When my daughter resisted, it was usually because the questions were getting harder. Then, we'd back up and do easier questions to give her confidence to tackle the harder ones.
- We used your Space Baby Academy activities as a “reward” for our son after doing practice questions. He especially loved Brain Pop and had no idea he was still learning when he was working with that program!