



The Basics of Assessment

Purposes of Testing

- For the government (Hebrews 11:13-16; Romans 13:1-10; Isaiah 54:13)

Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA)

<https://hslida.org>

- To report to others who ask (Romans 14:12)
- To finish the curriculum (Philippians 3:12)
- To motivate and reward students (Matthew 25:21)
- To sort students in a classroom (Judges 7:4-7)
- To identify a weakness (Romans 8:26)
- **To help students retain what has been learned (Deuteronomy 2:8, 16)**

“Hear, Learn, Keep, Do”

Testing is a tool to help our children learn!

Memorization gives a base of facts, from which application can be made.

- Reciting what has been previously learned should make up about 60% of a lesson. (About 2/3 of your teaching time should be review!)
- There should only be a short time before the first test of new material.
- Multiple testing (at least three) is the best.

Tips and Ideas:

- Highlight information that you want your children to know.
- Quiz at the end of a page.
- Quiz at the end of a chapter.
- Quiz at the beginning of a new day.
- Quiz at the end of the week.

- Give cumulative reviews monthly, quarterly, etc.
- Use sticky notes to keep track of important facts.

Ways to Review:

- Oral feedback and discussion
- Flashcards
- Games (Arithmetic Math Drills, Spelling/Word Power)
- Driving in the car (race the red lights)
- List out 10 things you learned

Making a Written Test:

- Short Answer
- Flashcards
- No Hints or Helps (like multiple choice or true/false)

What Facts Should My Child Know at Each Grade Level?

- Memorization – All ages and grades
- Saying Back What Was Learned – All ages that can speak
- Write Clearly (Good Grammar and Punctuation) – All ages that can write
 - Short answer
 - Sentences, paragraphs, essays, research papers, etc.
- Teach What Has Been Learned – All ages, but especially by high-school age
- Hands-On Demonstrations While Teaching – This is the best

Be Diligent. Be Consistent.

"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. **You shall teach them diligently** to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:6-9).

- Daily lessons
- Write down the grades

How to Average	
Grades This Month:	
Sept. 9	92
Sept. 16	95
Sept. 23	100
Sept. 30	95
Add the 4 grades together:	
Total	382
Divide by the number of grades:	
$382 \div 4 = 95.5$	
(round that up)	
Grade is 96	

Spaced-Out Learning and Review:

Talk when you sit down.

- Around the table
- On the couch
- In the car

Talk when you walk.

- Outside of school time, as you work and go about life's activities.

Talk when you lie down.

- Bedtime discussions (the best!)

Talk when you rise up.

- Early-morning coffee
- Breakfast

How the Elliotts Do Letter Grades:

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69

For All Subjects:

1. Define the learning goal
2. Memorize
3. Discuss
4. Review, review, review

Book Recommendations:

- *For Instruction in Righteousness*, by Pam Forster (Doorposts.com)
- *Proverbs for Parenting*, by Barbara Decker
- *All Through the Ages*, by Christine Miller

Keep a Portfolio for Your Child:

- Quizzes and Tests
- Writing Samples
- Notebooking Pages

Placing Your Students in HomeschoolingTorah:

- Arithmetic – Use Week 36 as a placement test.
- Language Arts –
 - Alphabetize (K-2nd grade)
 - Phonics vs. Sight-Word Tests
 - Use 3rd Grade for remedial reading
 - Able readers should go into Word Power 4-8
 - High-School students can use Grammar, Writing, and Literature (or any student 5th grade and up).
- Any other subject – Don't worry about grade levels.