

# 3 KEY IDEAS FOR PARENTS about the Common Core

## Thinking Deeply

The Common Core emphasizes critical thinking. It requires students to analyze more, discuss more, evaluate more, justify more and explain their thinking & understanding deeply, especially in writing. *Take-Away: Really thinking deeply is hard. Let it BE hard, help them talk it out.*

## Integrating Learning

The Common Core emphasizes learning across disciplines (reading with math & social studies standards combined into one task). Students spend more time working together with different settings, structures & tools. *Take-Away: Problems & solutions happen everyday in the real world.*

## Showing How They Know

The Common Core emphasizes proof & evidence. Long gone are the days of worksheets, fact memorizations and skill & drill. Students are not taught this way and they are not assessed this way. *Take-away: The new tests will require students to explain how they know.*

## Supporting The Common Core at Home

- ① Ask \*why\* when children tell you they want something or want to do or not do something.
- ② Use the word \*because\* after "No" or "Not tonight..."
- ③ Give reasons—you to them and them to you.
- ④ Encourage questions & explore answers (especially questions whose answers are not yes or no.)
- ⑤ Explain & discuss issues or problems in your house, neighborhood, & community. Brainstorm solutions.
- ⑥ Compare how things are alike and different—videos, movies, food.
- ⑦ Look for patterns
- ⑧ Describe & categorize stuff.
- ⑨ Tell your children what you value & why.
- ⑩ Encourage & celebrate opinions.

## Common Core Shifts

- Much more informational text
- Evidence based questions
- More critical thinking
- Use of technology
- More writing
- Academic language in all areas
- Greater text complexity

## Ways to Support my Child in Reading

- Read a large amount of texts
- Talk to your child about the text
  - Beginning, middle, end
  - Re-tell
  - Use open ended questions
- Use a variety of texts
- Read for many reasons (ie. recipes, look for information, environmental print, books)

## Ways to Support My Child in Writing

- Talk to your child in any language
- Write/Discuss
- High expectations in conversations
- Develop diverse friendships
- Keep a journal
- Have your child write for everyday purposes (ie. Grocery list, thank you cards)
- Extra-curricular activities

Parents can support their children's success by asking their children to talk about what they are learning, reading to and with their kids, and providing opportunities to learn new things at home or in the community.