

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.