

PARENT TIPS

TELPAS is an assessment program for students in Texas public schools who are learning the English language. The letters in TELPAS stand for the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System. The Texas Education Agency developed TELPAS to meet state and federal requirements. Texas annually assesses the English language proficiency of K–12 students who have been identified as English learners (ELs) in four language domains—listening, speaking, reading, and writing. TELPAS evaluates the progress that each EL makes in becoming proficient in the use of academic English.



Below are some activities that may assist your child in preparing for TELPAS.

The activities focus on the four language domains of TELPAS— listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Create an environment rich in literature.

Have a lot of books, magazines and newspapers about a variety of topics available. A food menu or store sale flyers can also be part of an environment rich in literature. Do not forget about poetry and words to songs. Visit the local library or bookstore to find more resources.

Read together or independently.

Make time to read together or independently and then talk or write about what you have read. Choose different types of books like chapter books, novels or non-fiction books or articles. You can also use picture books with no words to start conversations about the storyline, details in the pictures and to help your child expand his/her thoughts and vocabulary. Talk about punctuation and how punctuation adds meaning to the event or theme.

Read some things more than once to discover new details or facts and to show progress in fluency and ability to read.

Read non-fiction books and/or informative articles.

Some strategies that help with comprehension of non-fiction or informative books and/or articles include reviewing the title, the subtitles of different sections, the art or graphics like maps, photos or tables with information *before* reading. You can also write down unknown words and make notes while reading. Write down questions or facts on adhesive note pads and stick them near the section that they correspond with.

Listen to audio books and talk about the theme, the characters, or the best parts of the book.

Write down unknown words and look up the definitions in a dictionary. You can also write a brief summary or description of an important event.

Make lists or write the steps for a process.

Ask your child to help write shopping lists, names of family members or times/days of favorite television shows and movies. To practice writing steps in a process, ask your child to write down the steps in a scientific process or a daily activity.

Write letters, notes, invitations, or emails.

Help or ask your child to write letters, notes or emails to friends and family. For example, your child can write invitations to a party or thank you notes for gifts received at parties. This activity can also start discussions about how writing can change depending on the purpose or the audience. For example, a letter to a legislator is very different than a letter for a friend or family member.

Write daily.

Write in a diary, the words to favorite songs or create your own stories or informative articles.

Tell stories.

Tell your child stories or share memories to give them the opportunity to practice and develop listening skills. This will also help them learn new vocabulary and find connections to their life.

Talk daily.

Have conversations about school, news, books, favorite programs, life goals, family etc. Ask them questions and let them ask you questions also.

For additional questions, please contact your child's school. TELPAS resources can be found on the Texas Education Agency website: <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/ell/telpas/>. You may also contact TEA's Student Assessment Division at 512-463-9536 for support.