

## **Why should my child be tested?**

- Home school parents who work closely with their children every day usually know quite accurately where their children are academically.
- Standardized tests can affirm both your child's learning progress and your teaching ability. An objective evaluation can encourage teacher and student and also provide confirmation of your success to other family members, friends, and the state, where required.
- Standardized tests might also point out weaknesses that you may not have noticed. You can then work to improve in these areas.

## **Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) for grades K-8 and also called Iowa Tests of Achievement and Proficiency (TAP) for Grades 9-12:**

The Iowa gives a lot of sub-scores, so you can see more clearly how your child did on each different subject. The Iowa Test publishers require someone with a B.A. to administer the Iowa test. It is easily administered and provides the required information for a very reasonable cost. Many large support groups provide this test. The complete battery takes 2.5 - 4.5 hours for grades K-2; 5.5 hours for grades 3-8 and 4.5 hours for grades 9-12.

## **How do I choose the grade level of the test?**

Most of the time it is prudent to choose the test level based on what grade the child would be in if in traditional school. If the child is working above or below grade level in a majority of subjects, then you might choose to use that grade level to get the most accurate and helpful results. In order to make the most practical use of the scores you should not test above your child's reading level.