



# UPLIFT Online Session:

## Preparing for Standardized Testing: Motivating Children

Adapted for the web by Program Coordinator Shelby E. Simmons, MAT

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# Lesson Objectives

- Understand the concept of motivation
- Recognize the symptoms of lack of motivation in children and adults
- Develop parenting skills for encouraging motivation in children
- Acquire tools to help motivate children to do well in school and on tests

Why isn't my child motivated to learn?

# **PART 1**

# Why isn't my child motivated to learn?

## What is Motivation?

- A feeling or an attitude of excitement
- It reduces discouragement
- Allows you to face competition and challenges
- Allows you to take on a task with determination and perseverance

# Activity: Characteristics of Motivated/Unmotivated Children

Link available in Part I & Part III: Drag and Match the traits of motivation and identify a lack of motivation

Firefox

quizlet.com/11696812/scatter/embed/?hideLinks

Google

wolverine vs. II

SEARCH

66°

mcpart1 - UPLIFT Online Parent Sessi... x Scatter Motivating Children | Quizl... x

### Scatter: Motivating Children

Time 0:02.3 Record 0:45.8

Organized, follows a schedule, plan, or system

Acting out in class or at home  
Unmotivated Child

Takes responsibility for meeting standards or sets personal goals and standards  
Motivated Child

Unmotivated Child

Declining achievement test scores  
Unmotivated Child

Manipulation (getting others to do tasks for them; making others feel guilty)

Positive attitude even when unsuccessful, tries multiple times to improve  
Unmotivated Child

Lack of organizational skills  
Poor study skills  
Tasks done half-way  
No sense of direction (lacking goals)  
Unmotivated Child

Motivated Child

Forgetfulness, losing or misplacing assignments and materials, Making excuses  
Requires constant reminding and proddin  
Motivated Child

# Why isn't my child motivated to learn?

- Between 15 to 40 percent of our nation's children fall into the category of the underachiever or the child who lacks motivation.
- Most unmotivated children are boys
- The serious effects often surface in early puberty.
- Session activities can help you assess your child

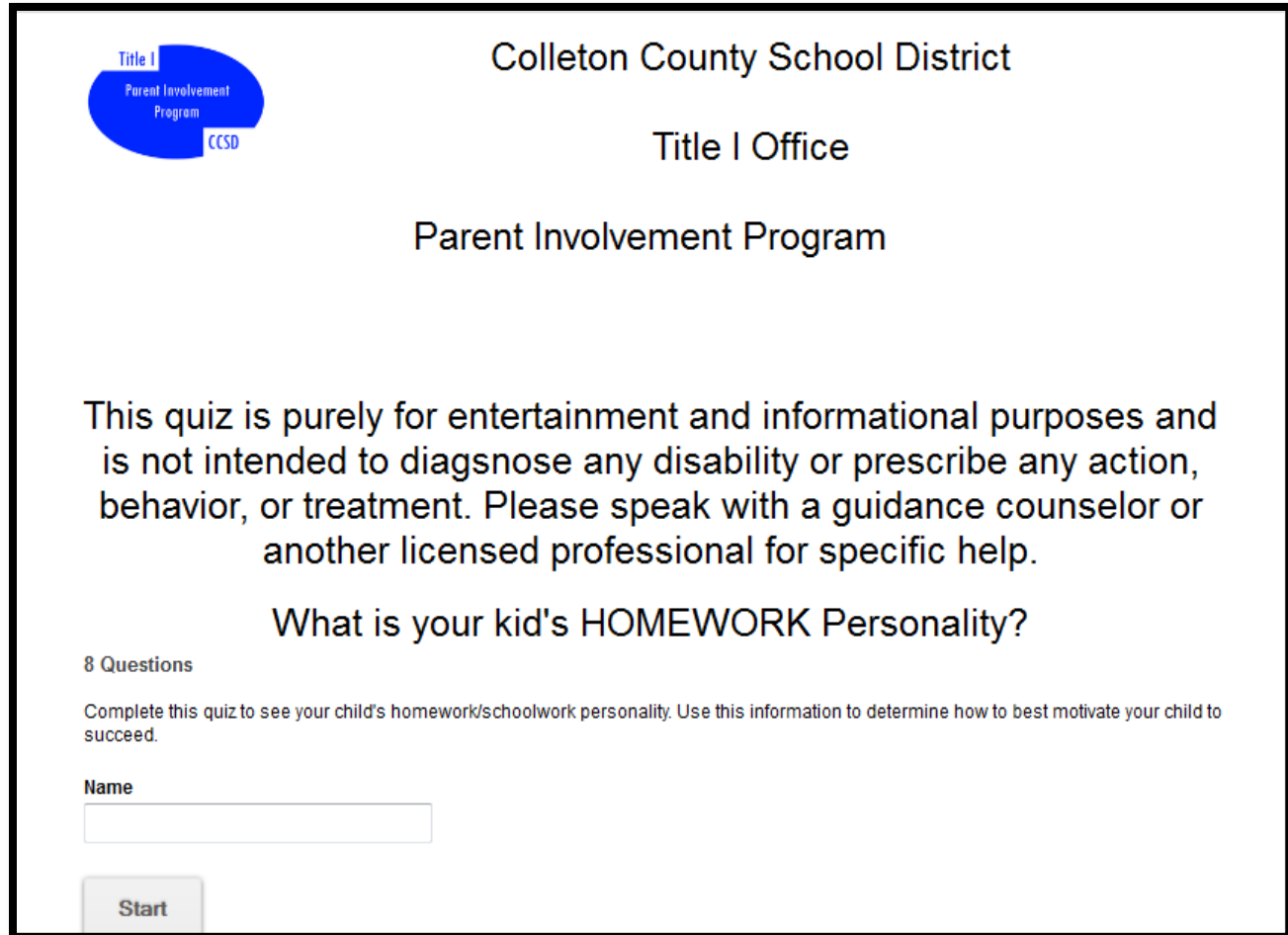
# Why isn't my child motivated to learn?


- Lack of achievement:
- A nationwide concern
- Robs children of motivation and a sense of personal control
- Lack of motivation leads to low performance and lack of achievement.



# Activity: Homework Personality Quiz

Quiz Link  
available in  
Part I & Part  
III: determine  
your child's  
characteristics  
and how you  
can help



 Colleton County School District  
Title I Office  
Parent Involvement Program

This quiz is purely for entertainment and informational purposes and is not intended to diagnose any disability or prescribe any action, behavior, or treatment. Please speak with a guidance counselor or another licensed professional for specific help.

What is your kid's HOMEWORK Personality?

8 Questions

Complete this quiz to see your child's homework/schoolwork personality. Use this information to determine how to best motivate your child to succeed.

Name



# Why isn't my child motivated to learn?

- If you believe your children lack motivation:
- Step back and carefully evaluate how YOU might have contributed to the situation
- The child did not reach this point overnight or in just one instance
- Your regular positive influence and example can counteract a learned lack of motivation

What can I do to motivate my child?

# **PART II**

# What can I do to motivate my child?



- The Chinese have a saying: "The longest journey starts with a single step."
- Begin by setting realistic expectations for change not only for the child, but for yourself as well.

# What can I do to motivate my child?



- What messages about motivation, responsibility, and education are we giving our children?
- What can we do at work or home that shows children how motivated we are?

# What can I do to motivate my child?

Our children should have the opportunity to observe the following in our daily lives:

- Effort and a sense of responsibility
- Respect and appreciation for education
- The ability to set goals
- Perseverance
- The ability to try again after failures
- Organizational skills

# What can I do to motivate my child?

Additional methods to encourage motivation in children:

- Form a close teamwork alliance with the school.
- Set clear, reasonable, goals and expectations
- *Use words of encouragement rather than praise.*
- Do not “rescue” from work
- Do not accept excuses
- Teach work ethics



# Activity: Praise vs. Encouragement

Access Link in  
Part II & Part III:  
Drag and Drop  
to learn the  
differences  
between Praise  
and  
Encouragement

The screenshot shows a Firefox browser window with the URL [thegullahnews.net/dnd/index.html](http://thegullahnews.net/dnd/index.html). The page features a search bar with the text "wolverine vs. ll" and a "SEARCH" button. Below the search bar, there are two tabs: "mcpart2 - UPLIFT Online Parent Sessi..." and "Praise Vs. Encouragement - Dragster ...". A blue link reads "Click here to go back to UPLIFT Online Parenting Lesson: Motivating Children".

The main content area is a large white rectangle divided into two columns labeled "Praise" and "Encouragement". In the center of this area is a grey box titled "Praise Vs. Encouragement" containing the text: "Use this simple drag-and-drop activity to help you remember the differences between praise and encouragement." Below this box is a "Start" button.

At the bottom of the page, there is a collection of blue buttons with text describing characteristics of Praise and Encouragement:

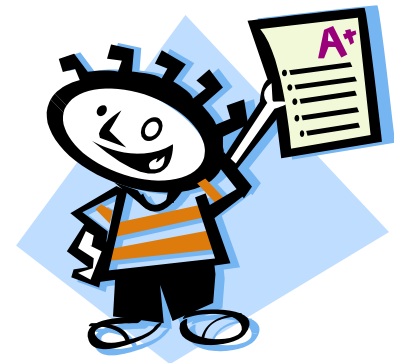
- Often used as a reward
- Not always believable
- Focuses on effort and improvement rather than end result
- Enables child to believe in him or herself and his or her abilities
- Can be discouraging
- Creates internal motivation
- Creates dependency on external rewards
- Emphasizes child's strengths and assets
- Helps child develop courage to face difficult tasks
- "That's a fantastic drawing!"
- "I see your drawing is a hamper."

At the bottom left, there is a scroll bar and a note: "Use scroll bar to access all elements...". At the bottom right, there are icons for a checkmark and a printer.

# What can I do to motivate my child?

How does all of this benefit your child on standardized tests?

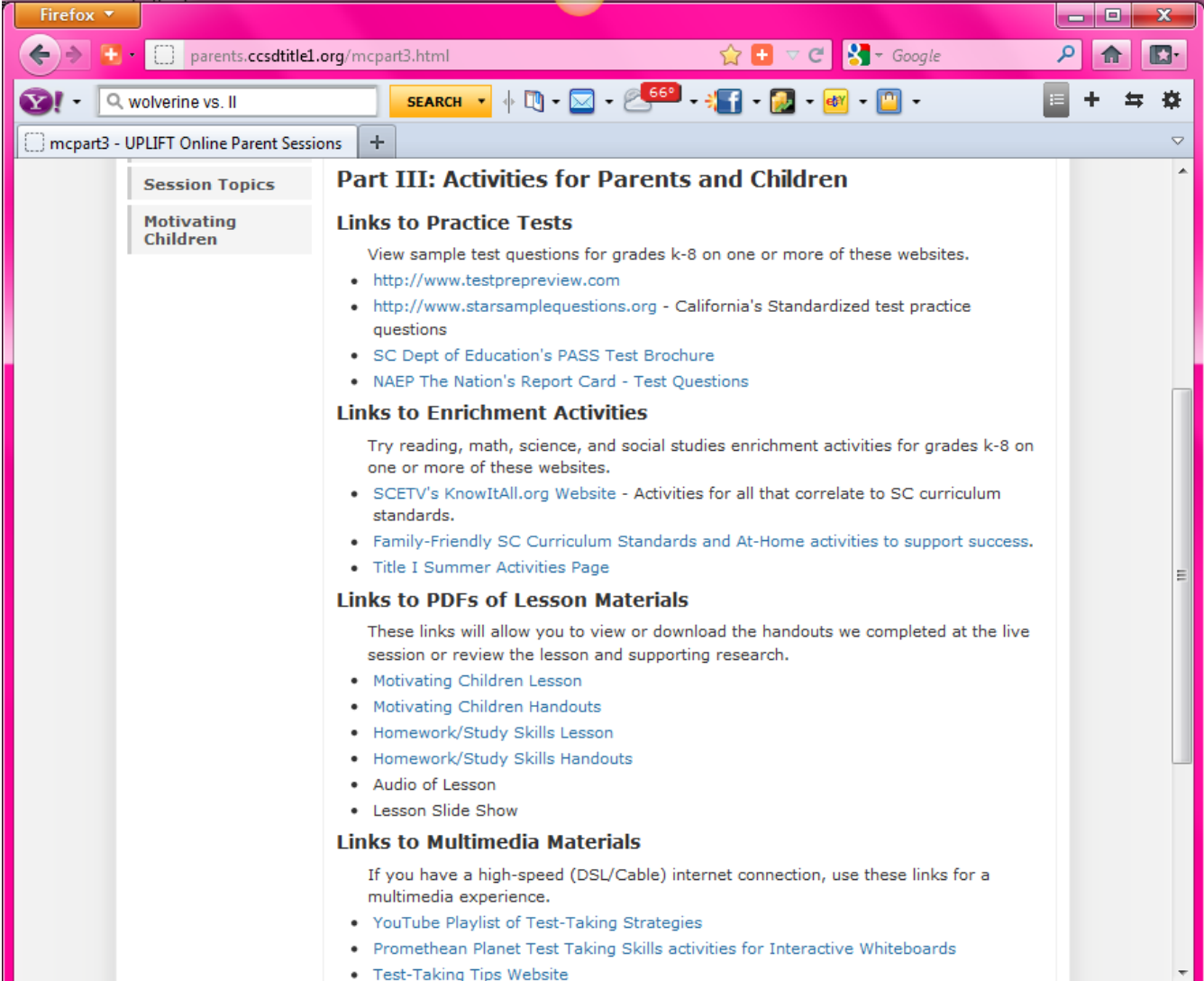
- Once children are motivated to learn and complete their homework and classwork they will have all of the basic skills required to meet testing requirements.
- For specific test-taking strategies and instructional drills, see Part III of this lesson.





# Additional Resources: Part III

The last part of the lesson contains activities for parents and children that will help motivate and prepare for testing success!



The screenshot shows a Firefox browser window with the address bar displaying 'parents.ccsdtitle1.org/mcpart3.html'. The page content is organized into sections:

- Session Topics**
  - Motivating Children
- Part III: Activities for Parents and Children**
  - Links to Practice Tests**

View sample test questions for grades k-8 on one or more of these websites.

    - <http://www.testprepreview.com>
    - <http://www.starsamplequestions.org> - California's Standardized test practice questions
    - SC Dept of Education's PASS Test Brochure
    - NAEP The Nation's Report Card - Test Questions
  - Links to Enrichment Activities**

Try reading, math, science, and social studies enrichment activities for grades k-8 on one or more of these websites.

    - SCETV's KnowItAll.org Website - Activities for all that correlate to SC curriculum standards.
    - Family-Friendly SC Curriculum Standards and At-Home activities to support success.
    - Title I Summer Activities Page
  - Links to PDFs of Lesson Materials**

These links will allow you to view or download the handouts we completed at the live session or review the lesson and supporting research.

    - Motivating Children Lesson
    - Motivating Children Handouts
    - Homework/Study Skills Lesson
    - Homework/Study Skills Handouts
    - Audio of Lesson
    - Lesson Slide Show
  - Links to Multimedia Materials**

If you have a high-speed (DSL/Cable) internet connection, use these links for a multimedia experience.

    - YouTube Playlist of Test-Taking Strategies
    - Promethean Planet Test Taking Skills activities for Interactive Whiteboards
    - Test-Taking Tips Website

# Additional Resources

## Visit the links and activities at:

- <http://parents.ccsdttitle1.org/mcpart3.html>

## Suggested Reading for Parents:

- Underachievement Syndrome: Causes and Cures by Sylvia B. Rimm
- Mega Skills by Dorothy Rich
- Kids Who Underachieve by Lawrence J. Green
- Boosting Adolescent Underachievers by Victor Cogen
- The Myth of Laziness by Mel Levine

## Suggested Reading for Children:

- Get Off My Brain by Randall J. McCutcheon
- How to Do Homework Without Throwing Up by Trevor Romain

Suggested reading list and references available in detail in PDF of this lesson or at the Title I Parent Center office – 843-782-4522 for details.

# References:

- *Underachievement Syndrome: Causes and Cures* by Sylvia B. Rimm, Publisher: Apple Publishing Company, 1986
- *Kids Who Underachieve* by Lawrence J. Green, Publisher: Simon & Schuster Adult Publishing Group, 1986
- *How to Help Children with Common Problems* by Charles E. Schaefer and Howard L. Millman, Publisher: Wiley, John & Sons, Inc., 1984
- *Understanding and Influencing Student Motivation* by Linnus S. Pecaut, Institute for Motivational Development, 1979
- *Ending the Homework Hassle* by John Rosemond, Publisher: Andrews McMeel Publishing, 1990
- *Making the Best of Schools* by Jeannie Oakes and Martin Lipton, Publisher: Yale UP, 1990
- *Homework without Tears* by Lee Canter and Lee Hausner, Publisher: HarperCollins, 1988
- *How to Help Your Child with Homework* by Marguerite Radencich and Jeanne Shay Schumm, Publisher: Free Spirit Publishing, 1988
- *Winning the Homework War* by Fredric Levine and Kathleen Anesko, Publisher: Prentice Hall, 1987