

### WHY IS TESTING IMPORTANT?

Your child is a unique member of his or her class. Each student in the class is different. Some children may be good at spelling; others may excel at mathematics. When children come into a class, the teacher needs to know as much as possible about what they know and how they differ. In this way, the teacher can match classroom teaching to the specific needs of each student.

### REASONS FOR TESTING

The teacher is responsible for making many decisions that affect a child's education – the sequence of material to be taught, activities and books to be used, and ways to organize students to learn. In addition, teachers must evaluate each child's progress over time. School administrators also need to be able to evaluate programs and make decisions about ways to use facilities, time, personnel, and other resources to help students learn and plan for the future. The administration of standardized tests like Stanford 10 to all students helps schools and teachers provide the best learning experience for your child.

### GATHERING INFORMATION

Evaluation, decision making, and planning require information from many different sources. Of course, some of the information is gathered in the classroom. Teachers collect information every day from classwork, homework, and from their own observations in the classroom. Teacher-made tests and quizzes also can provide information about what students have learned and what they still need to learn.

### HOW STANFORD 10 HELPS

Tests such as the Stanford 10 provide additional important information. Stanford is a *norm-referenced* achievement test. This means most of your child's scores describe how he or she did on the test compared with other students in the same grade across the nation who took the test at about the same time in the school year.