



Eleven Plus Guide for Parents

These revision tips have been provided by children who have successfully sat the Eleven plus exams.

- Do not overdo it. 10-minute tests are great for short practice. Part of the practice is being able to build up the attention span gradually.
- Create a list of topics within each subject that need to be covered.
- Varying the location of the testing within each subject means it becomes easier when coming to exam day.
- Provide plenty of revision papers; active revision is a great way to learn. There are plenty of mock exam papers on other websites. DABS Tuition provide two mock exam sessions in August or September each year. Visit www.dabsatlisheard.co.uk for more details.
- The Plymouth and Devonport exams are currently in the mornings. Consider doing all the practice papers in the mornings so your children mentally adjust to perform at their best at that time. Please ensure that you check with your chosen school's website.
- Some children are visual learners; consider using bubble maps (spider diagrams) showing all the different topics that need to be covered. Mark progress on these maps giving your child a sense of achievement.
- Mnemonics are a fun way to aid memory. Try using them for spellings. Children can make them personalised which make them more memorable. Take the first letter of each word to make a new phrase for example: Because – Big Elephants Can't Always Use Small Exits.
- Both Plymouth and Devonport 11+ exams are currently multiple choice. Make sure you use a similar style practice paper in the build up to the exams. Please ensure you check with your chosen school prior to purchasing practice papers.
- Some exam papers are in standard form not multiple choice. These are useful for some practice but try to revert to multiple choice papers nearer the exam dates.
- Use DABS Tuition Mock Exams as a way to see if your child needs to work on speed or a particular topic. Exam conditions can provide a useful assessment of current ability.
- Always go through every answer in the test paper using the answer book.
- Give your child sufficient rest to recover from the mental activity. During the resting periods, change the topic of conversation so that you are not talking about the exams or 11+.
- As with all mental activity, exercise and nutritious rewards are far more beneficial than sugary treats.
- A cup of hot chocolate or a hot bath can help your child relax and aid sleep. This will make sure they are fresh and relaxed for another practice / revision session.
- Keep each other calm. Both parent and child should get a good night's sleep.
- Leave in plenty of time for the exam, ensuring that you both have a good breakfast. Try to talk about something other than the 11+. If you do talk about the 11+, make it a positive conversation.
- Tell your child that you are proud of them for taking the exam and no matter what the outcome, you are proud of the effort and the time they have put into their practice. Tell your child that you know they will do the best they can and to remain calm throughout the test.