**3** Key Ideas for Parents About the Common Core

**Thinking Deeply**

The Common Core emphasizes critical thinking. It requires students to analyze more, discuss more, evaluate more, justify more and explain their thinking & understanding deeply, especially in writing. **Take-Away: Really thinking deeply is hard. Let it BE hard, help them talk it out**.

**Integrating Learning**

The Common Core emphasizes learning across disciplines (reading with math & social studies standards combined into one task). Students spend more time working together with different settings, structures & tools. **Take-Away: Problems & solutions happen every day in the real world.**

**Showing How They Know**

The Common Core emphasizes proof & evidence. Long gone are the days of worksheets, fact memorizations and skill & drill. Students are not taught this way and they are not assessed this way. **Take-away: The new tests will require students to explain how they know.**

**Supporting the Common Core at Home**

1. Ask \*why\* when children tell you they want something or want to do or not do something. 2. Use the word \*because\* after “No” or “Not tonight…” 3.Give reasons--you to them and them to you. 4.Encourage questions & explore answers (especially questions whose answers are not yes or no.) 5.Explain & discuss issues or problems in your house, neighborhood, & community. Brainstorm solutions.6. Compare how things are alike and different-videos, movies, food. 7. Look for patterns. 8. Describe & categorize stuff. 9. Tell your children what you value & why. 10 Encourage & celebrate opinions.