

Lauren Young, Parent

"I am NOT happy with the Common Core curriculum my daughter has experienced in K, 1st, and now 2nd grade. There is too much pressure on very early literacy. In NYC, many children are just four years old when they enter kindergarten and for some of them, the neurological development necessary to learn to read simply has *not* taken place yet, so it doesn't make sense to push them to read. There's no evidence that pushing down the curriculum a year or a year and a half has any benefits at all, and there are considerable harms to children's self-concepts as learners when they are pushed ahead past their neurological capacities. There was a reason that explicit teaching of reading used to take place in the 1st grade. Another example -- a lot of effort was expended last year in math teaching the children how to solve for the missing addend problem. But if we simply wait until second grade, children can grasp this type of problem intuitively. Why not wait? And I am dismayed at how ELA and math have crowded everything else out of the curriculum. My child will only receive 14 weeks of art instruction this year because the teachers have so much ELA and math to cover. Even though 2nd grade is not a testing year, the curriculum seems very much geared around the 3rd grade state assessments. The Common Core and the high stakes standardized testing that has come with it seems designed to make children hate school. We need a MAJOR reappraisal of the Common Core and a STOP to high stakes standardized testing."