

Helping Your Child Succeed in Mathematics

Help with Organization

Organized students are more apt to be successful students. When students are organized they have more time to spend on the work that needs to be completed and less time will be wasted. Here are some helpful hints.

Find a Study Place

Students need a quiet place with no distractions (i.e. television, computer, cell phone free). Materials that they might need should be readily available such as, paper, rulers, pencils, etc.

Start a Routine

Check your child's school agenda for all assignments. If your child is not routinely using his or her agenda, discuss why he or she should be and make it a priority.

Note-Taking

Occasionally, check your child's binder or notebook for notes and examples. Good note taking and organization bring about a clearer focus for studying. Helping your child stay organized will greatly increase his or her success in all subjects. Reviewing notes for every subject nightly should be a habit for your child.

Time Management

Support your child in completing and passing work in on time. Teach your child to ask for help when needed. It is always easier to stay caught up than it is to play catch up.

Concepts and Skills

By grade level there are certain skills that need to be mastered. If your child is not proficient in these skills, help him or her to become proficient. Expectations for every grade level vary, check with your child's teacher.

Find Study Buddies

Encourage your child to identify another student within his or her class to call to work on assignments, clarify assignments, or find out about make up work.

On-line Support

On the school web sites, you will find "Educational Links."

Help with Homework

One of the best ways to help your child learn is to assist him or her in realizing how much they can do for themselves. Questioning and listening are two powerful skills that will help your child have a better relationship with math. These skills build self-confidence and encourage mathematical thinking and communication. Part of problem solving is thinking; the following simple questions can be used to help your child begin this problem solving process.

Think...

What do you need to find out? What do you need to know? What words do you understand or not understand? Do you remember solving any other problems like this?

Work...

How can you organize the information? Are there any patterns that will help you solve this? Can you describe a plan you can use to solve this? Would making a picture help explain your thinking?

Solve...

Has the question been answered? Is your solution reasonable? Explain why your solution makes sense. Is there more than one solution?

Extend...

Can you clarify this part? Can you explain it in a different way? Is there another possibility that would work? How is this connected to another branch of mathematics or everyday life?