

Homework Tips for Parents

1. Show a positive attitude towards mathematics

- Children will pick up on negative feelings about mathematics.
- Encourage efforts and accomplishments – persistence and working through problems are valuable life skills.
- Make math real; show connections between mathematics and your daily life.
- Have fun. Puzzles, board games, websites, and brainteasers can provide opportunities for the whole family to have fun together while experiencing mathematics.

2. Create a supportive work environment

- Provide a quiet work area for the child, with appropriate furniture and lighting.
- Supply the required materials, such as pencils, a ruler, etc.

3. Guide and support. Don't teach.

- Remember, it is your child's homework. Resist the temptation to do the work for your child.
- Set high standards by encouraging your child to do his or her best on each activity.
- Encourage responsibility by providing a homework tracking sheet that your child can use to record and check off homework assignments.

4. Ask questions. Be a supportive listener.

Explanations can give children a starting point and can often help them figure out a problem or reinforce a concept. Here are some sample questions:

- What is the problem?
- What do you know that may help you with the problem?
- What do you need to know?
- Where do you think you should begin?
- How can you show your work?
- Do you think your plan is working?
- What have you done so far?
- Where can you get help?
- Does your answer make sense?
- Is there another way to solve this problem?

5. Keep lines of communication open

- Note down any questions or comments as they come up.
- Contact your child's teacher to discuss your concerns.
- Ask for literature or websites with more information on specific topics or on elementary mathematics in general.