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FOR FAMILIES



Helping your children with math



❖ **INSIGHTS FOR FAMILIES** is provided by your child's school in recognition of your role as a partner in education. Adapted by Judy McDaniel, communications consultant, from an article published on <http://EzineArticles.com>.

Math can be a difficult subject for many students. Many children lose interest in mathematics, simply because they think it's too hard. Here are some ways you can help your children solve their math problems and overcome their fears:

❖ **Encourage them.**

You can improve your children's learning ability by providing them a positive environment. Children should be appreciated when they correctly solve their math problems. Children can easily pick up signs of negativity.

❖ **Follow up on homework.**

Parents need to monitor the progress of their children to make sure they understand their assignments and they are completing those assignments. If your children don't seem to understand what they are supposed to be doing, ask their teachers for help and for advice about whether extra assistance is needed.

❖ **Demonstrate the use of math.**

Use real life situations to teach math to your children. For example, ask them to calculate the money you have to pay for movie tickets or the amount of the tip for a restaurant meal.

❖ **Explain real life math.**

Explain to your children how they can use math to solve their problems. They should understand that math is not about using arithmetic skills like addition and subtraction; it is much more than that. Children can use their mathematics skills to solve every day problems. They can find out how many pieces of pizza you need to cut so that it can be shared in your family. Exploring real world problems will show children the true value of math in their lives.

❖ **Get them to talk.**

Encourage your children to talk. Tell your children to solve their math problems by talking about the correct steps. This will allow you to monitor what they are thinking.

❖ **Teach money skills.**

Your children can use fractions and percentages to find out how much savings they have made on a particular purchase.

❖ **Teach them to tell time.**

Use digital and analog clocks for this purpose. You can talk with them about, seconds, minutes, hours and days.

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❖ Play math games.

Learning math should be a fun activity for your children. You can combine math with various games to make it interesting.

❖ Use computers.

You can increase your children's learning speed by using computers and various educational software. Today's children are much more familiar with computers than you were at the same age. There are many computer games that involve the use of math skills. Senior students may be interested to learn about spreadsheets and calendars to improve their math.

❖ Talk to teachers.

Parents and teachers should communicate with each other on a frequent basis. Work with your children's teachers to solve your children's problems with math.