

Supporting your child with Mathematics



WEST RISE

10 Tips for Parents and Carers To Have Fun With Maths

1

Start with a positive mindset. Do you ever hear yourself saying "I'm really bad at maths" or "I just didn't get maths in school"? It's difficult to understand just how much children will pick up on any negativity towards particular subjects from their parents. Unfortunately, this can be a real barrier to their learning. We advise parents to try and use positive language around their children such as "don't worry, it's okay to make mistakes, we all do", also be as patient as possible with your them when they're doing their homework. You may not mean to be negative, but your children may take it to heart. Positivity can go a long way to improving their attitude towards maths!

2

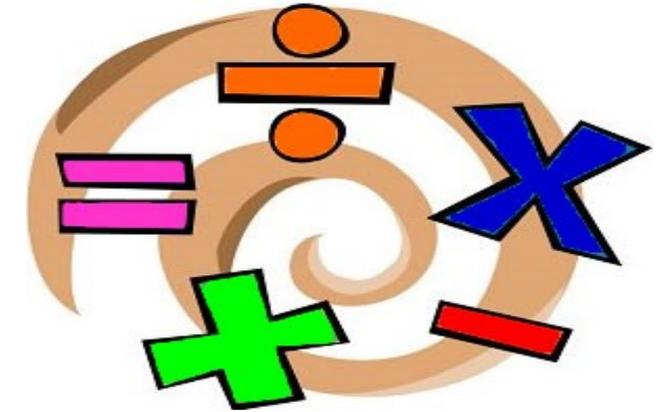
Play maths games together. Many games use mathematical and logical skills that your children will need in later life - plus they're fun! Games like jigsaw puzzles help children to develop logical & spatial awareness skills. Board games with dice develop children's counting skills. Other games that may help develop your child's maths skills are darts, scrabble, and chess. Get playing!

3

Learn their maths methods. You can also support your child's learning by getting to grips with the maths they learn, like the grid method and bar modelling. Sometimes parents try to help by teaching their children methods they learned in school. This can confuse children. Try instead to learn the method that your child uses by asking to see the school's Calculation Policy (usually on the school website), speaking to their teacher, or Googling it. This ensures continuity between school and home learning for your child and genuinely improves their learning!

4

Practise reading the time. As we move into digital, many children are growing up not reading analogue clocks. Make sure your child practises reading analogue clocks in everyday life, as this is part of the maths curriculum. It's as simple as reading the clock you may walk past on the side of a building, otherwise how will they ever be able to read the iconic Big Ben?



4

Use maths talk every day. Talking about maths is really important for your child's mathematical development. Whenever you have the opportunity, try to include maths talk in their lives. This is easily done when they are playing with physical objects as you can reinforce their counting skills. For example, how many pennies are you holding? Or what shape is that object? When counting, reinforce the last number they counted as this can help their mathematical development further, for example "one, two three...three cars." Just like children's TV shows do. Two easy concepts to develop with your children are doubling/halving and adding/subtracting. Again, you could use physical objects such as food to reinforce this. It's as simple as asking your child to count what is on their plate at dinner time. and then you can ask them things like: • "If I doubled the number of chicken nuggets on your plate right now, how many would you have?" • "If I ate half the peas on your plate for you, how many would you have left?" • "If we added all of my chicken nuggets to yours, how many would we have altogether?"

6

Use fractions in daily life. Fractions can be simple for you to practise with your child. Simple common fractions can be reinforced at home even if you're not too confident with fractions. Stick to fractions you know such as $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$. See a window split into four coloured panels? Ask your child "what fraction of the window is coloured in blue?" You don't have to use rounded shapes such as cakes and pizzas to practise fractions, just make sure the separate parts of the shape are all the same size.

7

Involve them with problem solving. The KS2 maths curriculum requires pupils to be able to problem solve in maths. As parents, you can help your children practice these skills every day. You can ask your child to tell you which is the best deal at the supermarket or how much their pair of trousers are worth when there is a 30% sale on in a clothes store, or which internet provider has the best deal when you need to switch.

5

Times tables: Practice Practice Practice! As everybody knows, it's essential for children to learn their times tables in order to access harder maths questions. This is an easy thing for parents to practise with their children - sneak it in when they're bored! Make car journeys go by faster, or distract them on the bus by asking times tables questions. Challenge them to say their times tables backwards if they get bored of reciting them.



8

Use open questions. Sometimes it's just plain hard not to work out the correct answer for your child's homework without simply giving it to them. Unfortunately, just giving children the answer to their homework means don't learn to work the answer out for themselves. This means they'll get stuck without you. Next time your child needs help with their homework, try asking prompting questions such as: "Why did you write that down?" "How did you get that answer?" "What method did you use?" This will help your child fully understand the maths methods they're using and reinforce independent learning.

9

Play to their love of technology. There's no substitute for personal support with your child's maths, but when you're busy - or even just for a change - giving children short bursts of online practice can be really helpful. We're spoiled for choice with maths apps on the market and most really engage children. There's definitely no need to spend lots of money. Many are free or economically priced. If you want to know where to start, some of our favourites are Mr Thorne's Maths, Top Marks and DoodleMaths. But there are plenty more!

10

If they need a challenge... Maths can be very boring for children when they're just repeatedly practising what they already know. If you find that your child needs to challenge themselves more, or gets bored easily. Explore websites such as NRIC (http://nrich.maths.org/) or Transum (http://www.transum.org/).



If you would like to discuss how to help your child further, or any aspect of the school calculation policy, then please contact the office to make an appointment with your class teacher or the maths co-ordinator.

