



How to Help Your Child be Successful in Mathematics

THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOUR CHILD CAN DO TO ENSURE SUCCESS IN MATHEMATICS IS TO COMPLETE EACH HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT ON TIME, INCLUDING CORRECTIONS ON PROBLEMS MISSED.

Ten additional tips for success:

- [1] Review addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts daily with your child. Writing (Mad Minutes, for example) is very beneficial; so is oral practice.
- [2] For lower school students who have trouble writing problems with units, tens, hundreds, etc. lined up in nice straight columns, turn a piece of lined paper sideways. The lines will help keep the columns straight.
- [3] Remind your child to bring both the textbook and workbook (through grade six) home each day. The textbook examples will show you how your child was taught to work the problems, as well as reminding your child of the day's lesson.
- [4] Math is not a spectator sport. If you are helping with a problem, resist the urge to hold the pencil all the time; have your child do the writing.
- [5] Ask your child to explain a homework problem or two to you each day.
- [6] Encourage your child to try every problem, even when he/she does not see immediately how to do it. Often, just getting started will show the way to proceed.
- [7] Encourage your child to study for quizzes and tests by reworking (not just looking at!) old homework problems. You don't need to make up new problems.
- [8] In middle and high school, there is no need for you to check your child's homework. Students are not graded on how many correct answers they have but rather are encouraged to work toward understanding through participation in the daily discussion of solutions.
- [9] Students benefit from doing corrections on problems they have missed. In middle and high school, they may have seen the correct solution in class, but it is important for them to rework those problems again at home to be sure they can do them on their own.
- [10] In middle and upper school, students take notes in math class. If the teacher or a student writes something on the board, your child should write it in his/her notes. Ask to see the notes from time to time.