 CTK Resource Corner

**Why is it Important for Your Child to Learn Math?**

Math skills are important to a child’s success – both at school and in everyday life. Understanding math also builds confidence and opens the door to a range of career options.

In our everyday lives, understanding math enables us to:

* manage time and money, and handle everyday situations that involve numbers (for example, calculate how much time we need to get to work, how much food we need in order to feed our families, and how much money that food will cost)
* understand patterns in the world around us and make predictions based on patterns (for example, predict traffic patterns to decide on the best time to travel)
* solve problems and make sound decisions
* explain how we solved a problem and why we made a particular decision
* use technology (for example, calculators and computers) to help solve problems

**How Will Your Child Learn Math?**

Children learn math best through activities that encourage them to:

* explore
* think about what they are exploring
* solve problems using information they have gathered themselves
* explain how they reached their solutions

**What Tips Can Your Use to Help Your Child?**

Be positive about math!

* Let your child know that everyone can learn math.
* Let your child know that you think math is important and fun.
* Point out the ways in which different family members use math in their jobs.
* Be positive about your own math abilities. Try to avoid saying “I was never good at math” or “I never liked math.”
* Encourage your child to be persistent if a problem seems difficult.
* Praise your child when he or she makes an effort, and share in the excitement when he or she solves a problem or understands something for the first time.

Make math part of your child’s day.

* Point out to your child the many ways in which math is used in everyday activities.
* Encourage your child to tell or show you how he or she uses math in everyday life.
* Include your child in everyday activities that involve math – making purchases, measuring ingredients, counting out plates and utensils for dinner.
* Play games and do puzzles with your child that involve math. They may focus on direction or time, logic and reasoning, sorting, or estimating.
* Do math problems with your child for fun.
* When doing math with your child, use household objects such as measuring cups and containers of various shapes and sizes, as well as math tools such as a ruler and calculator.

Encourage your child to give explanations.

* When your child is trying to solve a problem, ask what he or she is thinking. If your child seems puzzled, ask him or her to tell you what doesn’t make sense. (Talking about their ideas and how they reach solutions helps children learn to reason mathematically.)
* Suggest that your child act out a problem to solve it. Have your child show how he or she reached a conclusion by drawing pictures and moving objects as well as by using words.
* Treat errors as opportunities to help your child learn something new.

Excepts from: Helping Your Child Learn Math: A Parent’s Guide available online at <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/parents/learn/math.html>

Happy Learning!

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