

How can I help my child look forward to math?

Parents are their children's first and most influential teachers. Your support and encouragement are vital to your children's success in mathematics. The attitudes toward math that you display are picked up by your child, even without you knowing!

Parents can help students see math as useful and necessary for life. Include your child in activities with you that require mathematics, such as making purchases, checking the time, measuring ingredients for a recipe, writing a cheque and paying bills. In this way your child can see the relevancy and immediacy of mathematics.

Have a positive attitude toward math!

- Let your child know they can be successful in mathematics.
- Let your child know you see math as important.
- Be curious and excited about the math activities your child is involved in at school.
- Encourage your child to be persistent when the work becomes difficult.
- Remain patient and give praise when your child shows effort.
- Avoid negative comments and criticism.
- Don't underestimate your own math abilities.
- Don't say "I was never good at math".

How might I support or promote a math environment at home?

- Play games and puzzles with your child that deal with things such as logic, reasoning, estimation, direction and classification (Concentration/Memory, Chess, Checkers, Othello, Sudoku puzzles, Crib, Clue, Card Games, etc.).
- Do math problems together! This could include problems such as mixing juice crystals with water, figuring out how long to cook a roast or turkey, determining how to set the table for a certain number of people, etc.
- Involve your child in daily activities that require the use of mathematics. This may include brushing teeth for a certain amount of time, folding or sorting laundry, feeding pets, checking the television schedule, determining driving routes for errands, etc.
- Make familiar objects (toys, blocks, buttons, measuring devices, etc.) available so that your child can use them to help solve problems.
- Provide materials such as pencils, paper, calculators, and scissors to use for study or creative play.
- Listen carefully to your child's explanation of what he or she is learning.

Alberta Education Implementation Schedule	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Provincial	Grades K, 1, 4, 7	Grades 2, 5, 8	Grades 3, 6, 9, 10
Optional	Grades 2, 5, 8	Grades 3, 6, 9	

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