

## Helping with Math Homework

The mathematics your child brings home may look unfamiliar. This is because the world has changed with the advances in science, technology, information processing and communication. These factors make it necessary for all students to better understand mathematics in order to be able to compete and be successful in the global work force.



### Homework, It's easy!

Parents don't have to be mathematics experts to help with homework. The best way to provide help is to ask questions and listen carefully to the responses. Below are some questions that help children to clarify and deepen their understanding of the mathematics.

- When your child isn't sure how to begin a problem ask, "What do you know?" or "Can you estimate the answer?"
- When your child finds an answer ask, "Does that make sense?" "Why do you think that?"
- "Tell me what you did first to answer this question...What did you do next...and after that?"
- "Would \_\_\_ also be correct? Why or why not?"
- "Draw a picture to show me your thinking."

## Common Core Mathematics

### What's In?

Building conceptual understanding with manipulatives.

Math Talk – Expecting children to explain their thinking to why the answer is correct and how they arrived at the answer

Understanding there are multiple strategies to arrive at a solution and attempting to solve a problem in more than one way.

Children applying their mathematical understandings to new situations in order to solve a problem.

### What's Out?

~~Teaching the steps without conceptual understanding.~~

~~Silence – Accepting the "number" as the correct answer and moving on without explanations.~~

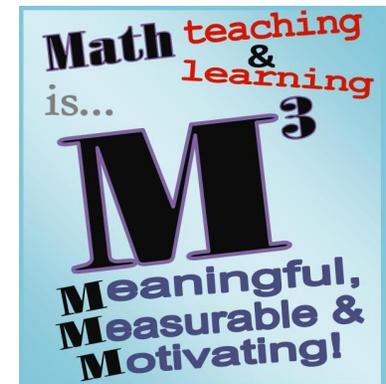
~~Thinking there is only one method to finding a solution to a problem.~~

~~Children unable to transfer and/or apply their understanding of mathematical concepts to new problems to find a solution.~~



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How to Help  
Your Child at  
Home  
With Math  
K - 5



*This brochure illustrates mathematical strategies students will be learning throughout the school year. Additional Parent Resources can be found at [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net) under Mathematics and Family Resources.*

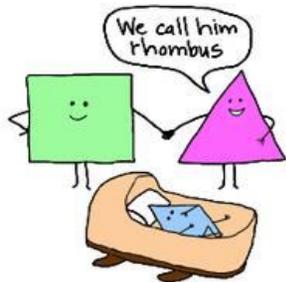
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## General Tips for Parents

- Be positive about math. Don't joke about it being "okay" not to be good at math. We wouldn't say that about reading or writing.
- Let your child know how math is a useful tool in your job and in your everyday life.
- Help promote understanding by having your child explain to you what they know.
- Encourage mistakes as an opportunity to learn.
- Encourage your child to do mental math (without paper) and point out to them when this is useful in your daily life.

### The Proud Parents



## Everyday Math Activities

Help your child to see the usefulness of math by pointing out the mathematics in your home and the world around them. The following activities illustrate how mathematics helps to build understanding of key concepts by grade spans.

### Transitional Kindergarten to Grade 2

- Find objects such as trees, buildings, signs and have your child relate it to shapes. Use trips to the store, park, etc. as an opportunity to build understanding of time.
- Use "cash" occasionally so your child has an opportunity to learn how to handle money and learn the names and value of coins.
- Cook with your child allowing them to count and measure ingredients.



### Grades 3 – 5

- Find the mathematics in sport by comparing statistics.
- Find the mathematics in the architecture of buildings by looking for patterns in the design, shapes used, height, mass, area, perimeter etc.
- Based on your child's interest, follow the Stock Market and track the gains and losses over time.
- Involve your child in estimating and calculating the cost of items when shopping. *Would you round up or down when considering tax and/or tip?*

## Games that Build Mathematics



Leave the TV and electronic devices off occasionally and play board games, games using dice or cards and dominos.



- Board games such as *Checkers, Connect Four, Trouble, and Monopoly* require students to think ahead and strategize their next moves.



- Games using dice, such as *Yahtzee*, or dominoes help young children to subitize common dot patterns. Students can roll dice to practice addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts..



- Card games help to build fluency in math operations. Play a variation of "War" turning over two cards each. Add or multiply the cards to find the total. The greatest sum or product wins the cards.