

How Can I Help My Child with Math at Home?

An interesting read: [The Three Best Math Questions to Ask Your Kids](#)

Questions to ask your child during math games:

- What do you think?
- How do you know?
- What is your strategy?
 - What is my strategy on my next move? How can you stop me?
 - What is the best space on the board? Why?
 - What is the best card in the game? Why?
 - What is the highest point total you could possibly earn in this game?
How could you earn it?
- I don't understand why that works. Can you explain it to me?
- What would a picture of that look like?
- Is there something you know that can help you solve this problem?
- Could a problem you have solved before help you solve this problem?
- Can you explain to me your steps?

Tips for when working with your child:

Start from where things make sense

- *"How could we draw a picture so this made sense?"*
- *"This feels confusing. Let's start with an easier problem."*

Be curious

- *"That's the right answer, but I don't see how you got it. How did you do that?"*
- *"Let's try to do it a totally different way. How many ways could we come up with?"*

Keep it light and playful

- *"It doesn't matter if we get it wrong. Let's just mess with it."*
- *"I have no idea what to do. Let's figure it out together!"*

Don't Say:	Do Say:
I'm not good at math/I'm not smart	I don't know – let's find out!
I'm not a math person.	Interesting idea. Why do you think that's true?
Why aren't you getting this? We just talked about this yesterday!	I don't get it yet. Can you draw a picture that would help me get it?
It's obvious.	These numbers are confusing me. Let's do an easier problem first.
You should know this by now.	I wonder if this (tool, model, drawing, manipulative) would help.
That was easy!	That was fun. Do you think that would work with different numbers?