



FOSTERING ELEMENTARY MATH SKILLS

Math skills are critical for your child's success in school and in life. There are easy ways you can help your child develop important math attitudes, skills, and habits at home:

Attitudes

- Communicate positive messages about math to your child.
- Do math work in intervals to help build your child's stamina, especially when the work is hard.
- Be patient and open with your child. Math has changed a lot over the past decade, so they may have learned a different way than you did.

Skills

- Count steps, measure distance, and track time. (Ex. How long was your shower?)
- Identify shapes, colors, angles, curves, and types of lines.
- Play games like Sudoku, Yhatzee, Farkle, puzzles, and card games.
- When shopping, have your child predict what the total cost will be.

Habits

- Create a space where your child can focus on math homework without interruptions.
- Make sure your child uses lined or graph paper and a pencil with an eraser when practicing math.
- Have your child play "teacher" and show you how to solve the problems.
- Ask your child to explain what he/she is learning. (Ex. Do you know more than one way to solve that problem?)

ONLINE RESOURCES

- MathForum.com
- Mathalicious.com
- VisualPatterns.com