

How Can I Help My Child Become Mathematically Powerful?

	Early Years	Middle Years	Older Years
Money	Use money to help your child: recognize coins know the value of coins count coins	Help your child: make change find coins that make 25 cents save her/his own allowance by opening a passbook savings account	Help your child: participate in making family budgets participate in grocery shopping begin to manage her/his allowance decide how much allowance can buy
Counting/ Numbers	Involve counting and numbers in everyday activities: Count parts of the body Count things around the house Count past 10 Identify numbers on the elevator Identify numbers on street signs Setting the table helps build spatial sense and reinforces 1 to 1 correspondence (I need 4 plates for 4 people, for example)	Encourage your child to count by 2s, 5s, and 10s Count past 100 Look for patterns	Encourage your child to practice skip counting by 3s and 4s Count past 1000 (say, count from 650 by 100 *650, 750, 850, 950, 1050... for example)
Math Facts	Help your child start to memorize single digit addition and subtraction problems starting with the doubles: 1 + 1, 2 + 2, 3 + 3, etc. 5 - 5, 4 - 4, 3 - 3, etc.	By the end of 2nd grade your child should know addition and subtraction facts to 20 (1 + 19, 2 + 18, 10 + 10, etc.) Your child should also know addition pairs that equal 10 (1 + 9, 2 + 8, 3 + 7, 4 + 6, and 5 + 5)	By the end of 4th grade your child should know multiplication and division facts to 12 X 12
Time	These are some of the time concepts that you can help your child learn at home: days of the week, months of the year, seasons, minutes in an hour, hours in a day how to read a standard clock (with an hour hand and minute hand) how to schedule time (if you need to do four things, how much time will you need?)		
Measure- ment	Involve your child in activities that encourage measurement like: cooking (fractions, volume, cups, teaspoons, etc., following step-by-step instructions) reading a thermometer (measuring body temperature and measuring temperatures outside)		

Figure 23 These tips for parents span the elementary school grade range. From J. DiBrienza and K. Casey, New York City. Reprinted with permission.

What can parents do?

- Become aware of any mathematics anxiety they have and be careful not to pass along their fears to their children.
- Realize that they don't have to know all of the answers (One of the most helpful answers may be "Let's find out together").
- Talk to their children about the relevance of math to future success.
- Be sure that their children pursue high-quality math courses.
- Find out about enrichment programs.
- Encourage their children's interest in math and let them know they can succeed.
- Have high expectations and check on their progress.
- Ask questions.

Figure 24 More general tips for parents who want to support their children as mathematical thinkers. From J. Thayer, L. Womack, and A. V. Marshall, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Reprinted with permission.