



## Talking to Your Child About Math

Many students feel frustrated when math becomes difficult and they are unable to successfully complete homework. Here are some strategies to help you and your child work through some of those challenges:

- Draw a picture or diagram
- Reread the problems and restate it in your own words
- Use a manipulative—everyday objects such as paper clips, toothpicks, pennies, etc)
- Think of a similar problem
- Cross out any unnecessary information
- Take a break!
- Keep a math journal to record thoughts while tackling math challenges

### Conversation Starters:

When a problem is hard, I.....

The strategy I'm confused about.....

I get frustrated when.....

The most important thing I learned today is.....

Something useful I learned today is.....

Questions I asked today were.....

The easiest/hardest part of the problem is.....



## Math Websites/Technology

[www.mathplayground.com](http://www.mathplayground.com)

(games, word problems, logic puzzles math videos)

[www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)

(games related to math concepts)

[www.aplusmath.com](http://www.aplusmath.com)

(fact practice, games, homework helper)

[www.mathforum.org/dr.math/](http://www.mathforum.org/dr.math/)

(answers to various math questions)

[www.coolmath.com](http://www.coolmath.com)

(math for all ages, includes parent link)



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## How Do I Help My Child in Math?



The Hillsborough County Public Schools' Elementary Mathematics Team is committed to creating an environment in which students can acquire the best possible foundation of mathematical skills and understanding to help them be successful throughout their lifetime.

## Math Around the House

### Math in the Kitchen:

- Plan a meal and help with the grocery shopping
- Measure ingredients from recipes using various units

### Money Management

- Earn an allowance and manage savings and spending
- Use the newspaper flyers to calculate savings on items using coupons
- Plan and carry out a garage/yard sale
- Time Management
- Create a family schedule of daily/weekly activities (sports, music, dance, church, etc.)
- Use movie/tv schedules to calculate length of movie/programs

### Measurement/Geometry

- Area and perimeter—rooms and furniture
- Volume—capacity of cupboards, aquariums, bathtubs, closets



### Patterns

- Create jewelry using various household items (macaroni, beads, cereal etc.)

## Out and About

### Geometry

- Identify and name two and three dimensional figures while you are around town (playground equipment, shapes of buildings, ball fields, etc.)
- Identify various types of lines using streets (parallel, intersecting, perpendicular)
- Use maps to practice skills related to coordinates, measuring distance, measuring to scale

### Travel/Planning a Trip

- Help budget trip factoring in different expenses (transportation, lodging, food, etc.)
- Calculate distances and gasoline cost and usage per mile
- Temperature: Investigate climate and various temperatures of destination

### Dining Out

- Estimate cost of food purchased at a restaurant
- Calculate the amount of money needed to leave a 20% tip
- Calculate and compare calorie counts in different foods



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## Math and Literature

- Safari Park by Stuart J. Murphy (Addition)
- Bigger, Better, Best by Stuart J. Murphy (Area)
- Pigs in the Pantry: Fun with Math and Cooking by Amy Axelrod (Capacity)
- Room for Ripley by Stuart J. Murphy (Capacity)
- Pigs will be Pigs: Fun with Math and Money by Amy Axelrod (Money concepts)
- One Grain of Rice by Demi (large numbers)
- How Hungry are You? By Donna Jo Napoli (Division)
- Betcha! By Stuart J. Murphy (Estimation)
- Polar Bear Math by Ann Whitehead Nagda (Fractions)
- Eating Fractions by Bruce McMillan (Fractions)
- Skittles Math Riddles by Barbara McGrath (Fractions & Integers)
- Jim and the Beanstalk by Raymond Briggs (linear measurement)
- Grandfather Tang's Story by Ann Tompert (Geometry)
- Three Pigs, One Wolf and Seven Magic Shapes by Grace Maccaroni (Geometry)
- The Greedy Triangle by Marilyn Burns
- Alexander Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday by Judith Viorst (Money)
- If you Made a Million by David Schwartz (Money)
- The King's Chessboard by David Birch (Multiplication & Patterns)
- One Hundred Hungry Ants by Elinore J. Pinczes (Multiplication)
- Spunky Monkeys on Parade by Stuart J. Murphy (Patterns)
- Racing Around by Stuart J. Murphy (Perimeter)
- The Grizzly Gazette by Stuart J. Murphy (Percents)
- Can You Count to a Googol? By Robert E. Wells (Place Value)
- Sea Squares by Joy N. Hulme (Square Numbers)
- Pigs at Odds: Fun With Math and Games by Amy Axelrod (Probability)
- The Smushy Bus by Leslie Helakoski (Subtraction)
- The Grouchy Lady Bug by Eric Carle (Elapsed Time)

