

— Homework: A Helpful Overview —

"New" Math

What?



Math is a progression. Skills learned in early grades (number sense, place value) will support skills in later grades (algebraic thinking).

Why?

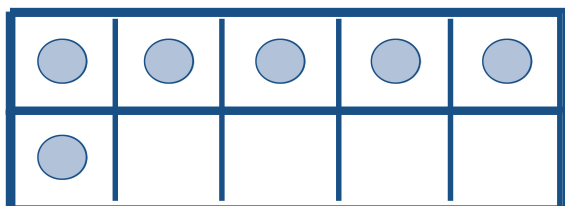


To help kids gain a deeper understanding of mathematics, rather than just solving a problem using a standard algorithm

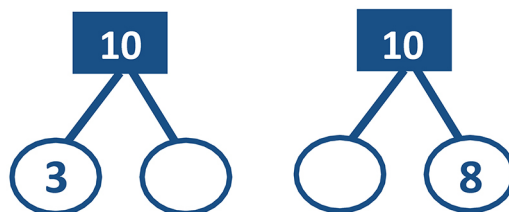
How?

Learn Multiple Strategies to Approach Mathematics Problems

Ex. Ten Frame



Ex. Number Bonds



Promote a growth mindset

SAY THIS

"I can see you worked hard on this!"

"It seems like time to try a new strategy."

"It looks like that was easy for you. Let's see if we can find something challenging to keep growing your brain."

"You may not have gotten the right answer this time, but that doesn't mean you can't in the future! What strategies could you try next time?"

"That problem was really hard. But your effort paid off! Next time, you'll be ready for this kind of challenge!"

DON'T SAY THIS

"You are so smart!"

"It's okay. I wasn't good at math either."

"That's right! You did great."

"That's not the right answer. Let me show you how to do it."

"That problem was really hard. Hopefully you won't have to do that again."



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Helping your child with homework

Here are some ways you can help your child when they are completing their math homework. First, homework is not about getting the answer right. It is an opportunity for your child to practice what they've learned. Second, encourage your child as they do their homework, but don't try to teach them how to do it. Last, communicate with the teacher about how your child performed during homework by using the key below.

Checking your child's homework

When your child:	Mark the problem	This can let your child's teacher know that your child:
Completes the problem quickly without support (not necessarily correct)	 or 	Is either fluent and accurate OR they are struggling to self-regulate or check their work and may be rushing to complete the task
Struggles to begin the problem, asks for help, or requires prompts	Circle the question	May not know how to setup the problem May not understand the problem May not feel comfortable with the content May not understand which operation to use

If your child is struggling

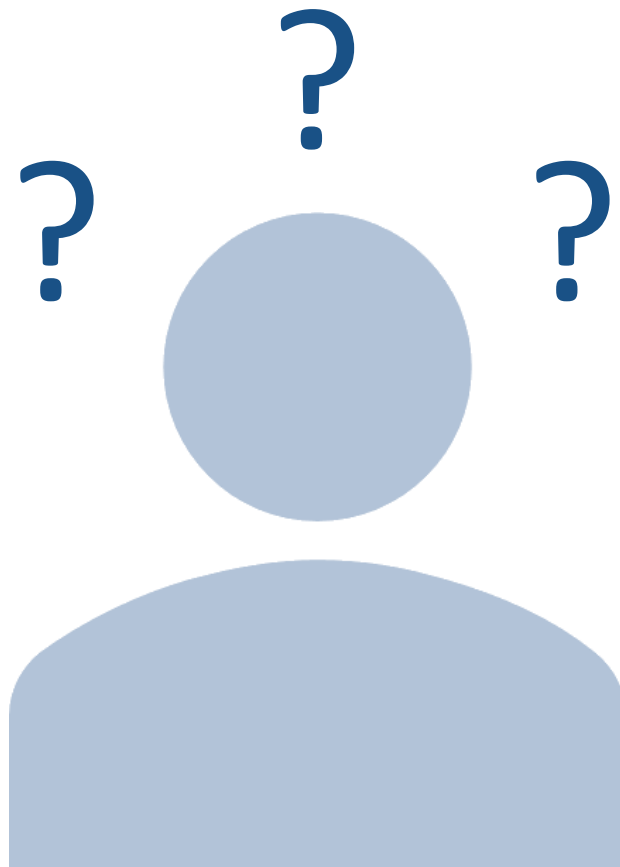
DO THIS	DON'T DO THIS
Ask your child if they understand what the problem is asking and have them explain it in their own words.	Tell your child they are doing something incorrectly and have them try to fix it.
Ask your child to draw a picture or try another strategy to solve the problem.	Try to teach your child the content or show them the standard algorithm to use instead.
Read the problem to your child, emphasizing key words (e.g., few, none, all, in addition to, reduce).	Tell them what operation they should use to complete the problem.
Ask your child to skip a problem and come back to it if they are struggling.	Create an opportunity where your child becomes angry or shuts down completely.

Try asking your child's teacher questions like this

Can you share or send home a strategy that you use in class that can help my child complete the math homework?

Does homework have an impact on my child's grade? If so, how?

Are there activities I can attend at school or resources you can point me to that will help me learn more about math instruction and how to support my child?



Why is homework so difficult for

A Child

- Lack of subject *understanding*
- Lack of *discipline, organization*, etc.
- *Shyness* afraid to ask questions
- Homework *materials* not available
- Does not see the *importance*
- Family *activities* and afterschool life
- Work is *too difficult or easy*
- Too much *work*

Parents

- Parents perceive themselves as unable to help with the homework
- The child dislikes doing the homework
- Homework causes arguments, either between the child and adults or among the adults in the household

Homework Roles

Early Grades

Check backpack homework; get materials and information from teacher

Later Grades

Homework reminders; ask if help is needed; get materials and information from child

Always!

Promote a growth mindset

Parents

Students

Attitude; effort; ask for help before getting discouraged

Teachers

- Structure the learning through rubrics or syllabus to communicate “why & how”
- Provide meaningful assignments that link to academic standards
- Give feedback and evaluation that highlight a child’s strengths and areas for growth

Early Grades

*Praise effort,
not answers*

Later Grades

*Understand homework
is child’s responsibility*

Always!

*Encourage
independence*

Parents should:



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