

MATH HOMEWORK TIPS FOR PARENTS*

*from US Dept of Education and Blaine County School District



- **Be positive about homework.** The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.
- **When your child does homework, you do homework.** Show your child that the skills they are learning are related to things you do as an adult. If your child is doing math, pay bills, balance your checkbook, or complete a project with measurement. If your child is reading, you read too.
- **Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.** Also, make sure the materials your child needs (paper, pencils, dictionary, etc.) are available.
- **Help your child with time management.** Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Consider using a weekend morning or afternoon for working on big projects.
- **When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.** The goal of homework is for your child to become an independent and confident math student. If you help, do so at the beginning of the assignment and then let them finish on their own. Use questions like these to promote independent thinking:
 - What ideas have you learned before might be helpful in solving this problem?
 - Why do you think that?
 - Does that always work?
 - Does that make sense to you?
 - What would happen if...?

PARENTS SHARE MATH HELP TIPS*

*from: National Council of Teachers of Mathematics website

- "My daughter is growing up with a "can do" attitude towards math. Her skills are more advanced than mine, and I let her know I'm proud of her. Maybe you weren't good at math, but your kid doesn't have to know that. Have a good attitude and he will, too."



- "I try to work math into our everyday conversation at home. Since I work in industry, I know how important it is for kids to know math in today's world."
- "From talking with my daughter, I've begun to see math in an entirely new way. She likes taking the lead, and I'm sure that teaching me helps reinforce what she's learned."
- "I guess I'm pretty tough. From day one, I tell my son that not passing math is not an option. But I also let him know I'm there for him every step of the way."
- "Recognize that she has her own work habits, and they're probably different from yours. You can give her a tidy desk in a quiet setting, but she may prefer her headphones and an unmade bed."
- "For my child, doing well in math means doing his very best, not necessarily getting an 'A.' I love to see his excitement when he cracks a problem and know it's right."