

# Help Your Child Along the Path to Success!

You can build your child's math confidence by helping him or her understand that:

- **Problems can be solved in different ways.** Although there may be only one answer, there may be many ways to get to that answer. Learning math is more than finding the correct answer; it's also a process of solving problems and applying what you've learned to new problems.
- **Taking risks is important.** Help your child see the value in trying to solve a problem, even if it is difficult. Give your child time to explore different problem solving approaches. As he works, encourage him to talk about what he is thinking. This will help him to become an independent thinker and problem solver.
- **Being able to do math in your head is important.** This valuable skill comes in handy to make quick calculations of costs in stores, restaurants, or gas stations. Using mental math builds math skills.
- **It's sometimes okay to use a calculator.** Knowing how to use them correctly is important. But your child should know the math behind the answer.
- **Wrong answers sometimes can be useful.** Sometimes you can use a wrong answer to help your child figure out why she made a mistake. Ask her to explain how she solved a math problem. Her explanation might help you discover whether or not she needs help with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, or other concepts.

**As a parent, you are the single greatest influence on your child.**

Follow these steps to help your child along the path to success in mathematics and science.



## Step 1: Start the school year on the right foot.

There is more to "Back to School" than clothes and supplies. Talk to your child about why learning is important and help her set goals for the year.

## Step 2: Get to know your child's teachers and let them know you.

Ask what your child will be learning in math and science, and how your child's progress will be measured.

## Step 3: Homework is important!

Be sure your child understands and completes homework assignments. Be available to answer questions and offer encouragement.

## Step 4: Reinforce math and science learning at home.

Turn daily activities around the house into learning experiences. Ask your child to help you measure, estimate, and count. Help make learning fun!

## Step 6: Get a tutor if your child needs extra help.

Many schools and community organizations offer free or affordable tutoring.

## Step 5: Identify problem areas early.

Know your child's progress and test scores. Talk to his teachers if your child is struggling with math and science.

## Step 7: Math and science are important for success.

It's never too soon to start talking with your child about life after high school and careers.

