

10 Tips to Help with Math

1. Have a positive attitude – be upbeat about your own math skills and experience
2. Allow time for student to think it through and try it alone first.
3. Encourage thinking aloud, talking it over, making connections
4. Promote understanding, not just memorization
 - ✓ Break it down into steps
 - ✓ Relate it to something you already know
 - ✓ Write it out, sketch it, make a model, be creative
 - ✓ Look for patterns, visualize it, work backwards
 - ✓ Use “things” to make it real (paperclips, marbles, counters, beans...)
5. Encourage good math habits
 - ✓ Writing clearly, using columns, being organized
 - ✓ Writing out all the steps, showing the thinking
 - ✓ Using math language
6. Use the text book for help
 - ✓ explanations, examples, definitions, glossary
7. Make it real - relate value of math to everyday life
 - ✓ Sports stats, cooking, store sales, bus / train schedules
8. Estimate, predict – then work it through and check
9. Encourage persistence – take a break, come back to it - working on it will make a difference
10. Recognize good thinking, use positive language, offer lots of genuine praise and encouragement

Nearly there... You've almost got it!

You're on the right track...

I can see this is starting to make sense to you...

You're really starting to get the hang of this...

Exactly right up to this step – let's look at this together

Where does this stop making sense?

I know you can do it – let's take this one step at a time...

Take me through your thinking on this...

Math is for everyone. Enjoy!