

## TEN TOP TIPS at KS3 and beyond.... for helping your child with their Maths

### 1. Make sure that your child knows the basics:

- ◆ Time tables (best chanted "old-fashioned style" one two is two, two twos are four etc") Put this poster up where it will be frequently seen.
- ◆ Arithmetic skills - addition, subtraction, multiplication & division.  
Use this  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/238967/Mathematics\\_Appendix\\_1.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/238967/Mathematics_Appendix_1.pdf)  
for support. (this is the only link that may need copy and pasting into the browser).
- ◆ Ensure that they understand money & show them receipts so that they understand money is written to 2 decimal places.
- ◆ Teach them to tell the time - both analogue & digital - help them to recognize the 24 hour clock.

### 2. Help your child to make connections between maths and real-life - encourage them to investigate maths around the home such as:

- ◆ Weighing & measuring ingredients for a recipe - can they scale up or down a recipe?
- ◆ Show them the electricity & gas meters - explain how they work & how to read them.  
<https://www.edfenergy.com/for-home/help-support/read-meter>
- ◆ Create a short shopping trip, set a small budget, use cash & encourage them to calculate the total amount and change to be given.
- ◆ Plan an outing & let them organise the timings.



### 3. Play games & have fun. Let them see that maths is not just numbers!

- ◆ Do puzzles, jigsaws, logic puzzles, Sudoku. Find a great range of puzzles here -  
<https://www.brainbashers.com/logicpuzzles.asp>
- ◆ Get the playing cards out - play games that involve scoring points -  
<http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/card-games>
- ◆ Dice games - Yahtzee is a superb game involving 5 dice, throwing different combinations & collecting the greatest score - <http://www.hasbro.com/common/instruct/Yahtzee.pdf>
- ◆ Darts is an excellent way of encouraging children to practice their addition, subtraction, multiplication & division skills & enabling them to understand the idea of inverse operations.
- ◆ Learn to play chess, draughts, Go or other strategy games.

### 4. Help them to develop their mental maths. Give them strategies to work out calculations.

- ◆ Long car journeys are always a good opportunity to practise mental skills - try multiplying the numbers on the registration plate.
- ◆ Calculate simple fractions
- ◆ Work out basic percentages - going to the Sales can help!
- ◆ Do addition, subtraction & develop short multiplication

### 5. Encourage a regular daily time to check and complete homework. Do this in a calm & peaceful environment, switch off the radio & the TV, play some soft classical music, have a drink & a snack at hand.

- ◆ Use any suggested resources, ie MyMaths to help you & your child.
- ◆ Check Moodle for details of homework.

## 6. Little & Often.

- ◆ Do revision, catch-up work, homework in bitesize chunks. – 20 mins a day is far more beneficial than 3 hours at the weekend.
- ◆ Have a regular slot when the focus is maths.
- ◆ Do the puzzle in the paper.
- ◆ Make it a family affair - sibling rivalry really can focus their concentration.

## 7. Don't worry if the method they tell you "Miss says we **MUST** use" isn't the one that you learned.

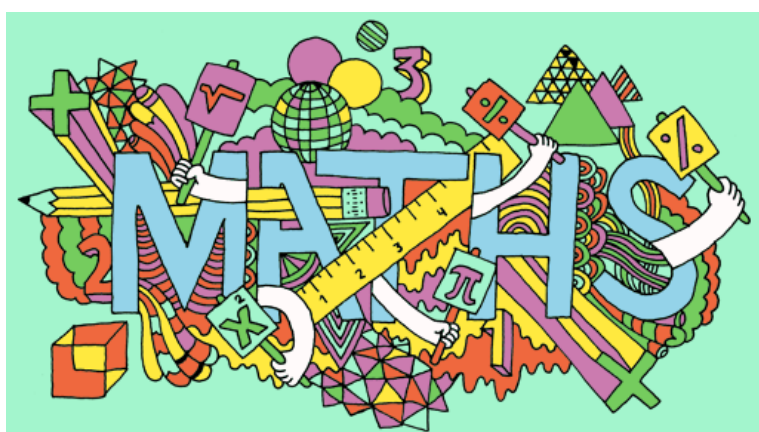
- ◆ Show them your method, all the "old" ideas are still valid today and will be acceptable.
- ◆ Insist that they demonstrate their method, play dumb and make them explain.
- ◆ Check that they are writing their numbers and symbols clearly - answers cannot be marked if they cannot be recognised!
- ◆ Explain to them that they are "telling a mathematical story" just as in any other language.

## 8. Help them to understand the language of maths - a solid understanding of the terminology is vital.

- ◆ There are excellent mathematical dictionaries written for all levels.  
[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Oxford-Students-Mathematics-Dictionary/dp/0192733575/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?ie=UTF8&qid=1479911510&sr=8-5&keywords=maths+dictionary](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Oxford-Students-Mathematics-Dictionary/dp/0192733575/ref=sr_1_5?ie=UTF8&qid=1479911510&sr=8-5&keywords=maths+dictionary)
- ◆ If you are not confident in helping them with their maths, try this book.  
[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Maths-Mums-Dads-Mike-Askew/dp/0224086359/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1479911581&sr=8-1&keywords=maths+mum+dads](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Maths-Mums-Dads-Mike-Askew/dp/0224086359/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1479911581&sr=8-1&keywords=maths+mum+dads)
- ◆ This booklet produced by the NCETM (National College for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics) is extremely comprehensive.  
<https://www.ncetm.org.uk/public/files/17308038/National+Curriculum+Glossary.pdf>

## 9. Help them to understand the wording of questions - this is often the source of most mathematically difficulty, not understanding what to do.

- ◆ Break the questions down to the bare minimum
- ◆ Look out for "red herrings" and unnecessary information.
- ◆ What is the question asking?
- ◆ What are the facts? What do you know?
- ◆ What skills do you have to solve it? What maths do you know that fits this topic?



## 10. DON'T, DON'T, DON'T EVER TELL YOUR CHILDREN "It's OK, I was rubbish at maths!", "I hated maths!", "I can't do maths!"

- ◆ Be honest, if needs be, say: "I find this difficult too, let's see if we can do it together". There is a national culture of accepting poor performance in maths but everyone CAN learn & master the basics. You may enjoy it after all, **Maths is Fun!**