

Homework

Homework is an opportunity for students to learn and for parents to be involved in their children's education. A parent's interest can spark enthusiasm in a child and help teach the most important lesson of all –learning can be fun and is well worth the effort.

There is a lot you can do to show that you value education and homework.

- **Set a regular time.** The best schedule is what works for the family. Help your child to get organized.
- **Pick a place.** A study area should have lots of lights; supplies close by, and be fairly quiet.
- **Remove distractions.** Turn off the television and discourage social telephone calls during homework time.
- **Be available.** Elementary school students often like to have someone in the same room when they are working. Look over completed assignments. Make sure it is neat, organized and shows a significant amount of work.
- **Ask about the school's (teacher's) homework policy.** Teacher expectations vary; so make sure to ask the teacher what is expected of the parent. It's always a good idea to be in contact with the teacher if any problems with homework come up.
- **GIVE PRAISE**

Places of Interest



Goudreau Museum
999 Herricks Road
New Hyde Park, NY. 11040
www.mathmuseum.org



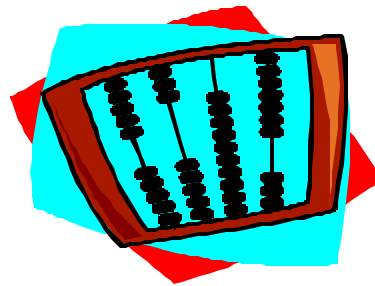
Long Island Children's Museum

11 Davis Avenue
Garden City, N.Y. 11530
www.LICM.org

Remember:

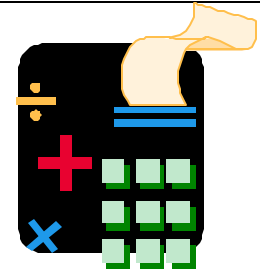
Math is an active subject.

**Success in mathematics is like success
on the athletic field – IT TAKES
PRACTICE.**



Bethpage School District
Angel Kozlowski
Director of Mathematics
Phone (516) 644-4061
Email: akozlowski@bethpage.ws

MAKING THE MOST OF MATH



Families play a vital role in educating America's children. Partnerships between school and parents will increase the social, emotional and academic growth of children.

Your child probably loves games. Puzzles, too. That's why it's helpful to connect the games and puzzles played at home with the math taught in school.

You can help make "the math connection" so that your child will find it easier to learn and like math.

This pamphlet contains ideas and suggestions for parents on how they can help their child succeed in math.



It Comes Naturally

Math is learned naturally by the inventive, curious mind. Pre-schoolers are easy and confident with numbers. They love to count and use counting in a number of ways. By the time they enter kindergarten, they have many practical – but informal – math skills.

Essentials

Three things are essential for a child to learn math and all three are things you can help reinforce.

Understanding. The child must understand the steps involved in working and solving a math problem. If the child's ability to solve problems is based solely on memorization without understanding, the ability won't carry over from one problem to another.

Practice. This means practicing the base skills – addition, subtraction, multiplication division, fractions, and decimals – so that the child can learn and remember them and then use them correctly.

Seeing Patterns. Children need to see patterns and regularity in math and ways of organizing mathematical information. Math builds and extends simple ideas into more general concepts.

Counting

What is counting? Counting is not just reciting a string of numbers. It includes such things as matching objects and arriving at totals. Research has identified six stages that a child must go through in counting, beginning with rote counting to counting backwards.

To help your child develop confidence in counting, use concrete objects and examples. Drop 5 marbles in a jar and have the child count as you drop in additional marbles. Use rhymes or songs. Use familiar, repetitive situations to reinforce counting – such as cookies in a box, leaves on plant, etc.

Estimating & Measuring

Estimation is one of the cornerstones of math. It can enrich counting, measurement, and problem-solving abilities. Children who can make a good estimate of the answer to a problem clearly understand the problem. Children who can estimate are able to reject unreasonable answers and know when they are “in the ballpark.”

You can help your child develop estimation skills by helping him/her practice rounding numbers to the nearest 1, 10, 100.

Practice estimation with your child. “How many marbles do you think are in the jar?” “Who is taller?” “Which is wider – the door or the table?” “Which is farther away – New Jersey or California?”

Measurement is another essential. You can help your child with measurement by making comparisons. Time and age are among the things to be measured.

Ask if the child has “too much” or “too little” of something. Help your child practice measuring things that are longer than the measuring instrument. Make a floor plan and have your child write down the measurements.

Discuss time and age with your child rather than just “telling time.” For example, “It takes Mom 45 minutes to get to work. When should she leave the house to get to the office by 9:00?” Ask how old your child is in months ... weeks ... days ... hours ... minutes.

Correcting Mistakes

Find out what kinds of mistakes your child makes in mathematics. Use a math book to find easier problems of the same type (or ask your child's teacher) and have the child rework those problems. Make sure the child understands the simpler problem before going on to a more difficult one.

Ask your child to describe how to work a problem, step-by-step. Doing this may also help the child to identify the error. While the child is doing this, look for patterns in errors because one misunderstanding may cause others like it.

How to study Math

Some students have the mistaken idea that you can't study for math – but that's not true. The method of studying is called active studying and it requires writing rather than just reading.

- Reread and/or rewrite each day's notes. **REDO** the model problems in your notes.
- Make a study sheet or flash cards of formulas and vocabulary words.
- Retake old tests.