

Parents! 10 Top tips to engage your children with maths

KS2

Is maths really that important at home?

Parents have a great opportunity to develop their children's maths skills at home by involving them in everyday activities. If your children can help you find the best deal for your car insurance or work out which supermarket deal is cheapest, then it's helping them understand maths in real life. It also helps develop their basic maths and problem solving skills, which are really important in the UK primary curriculum.

Don't underestimate yourself, or the power you have as a parent getting involved in your child's learning. Ofsted have specifically stated that parental engagement raises pupil achievement.

So here are some tips and ideas to show how you can improve your child's KS2 maths skills at home.

1 Start with a positive mindset

Do you ever hear yourself saying "I'm really bad at maths"? It's only small, but your children can pick up on negativity towards subjects and, unfortunately, this can be a real barrier to their learning. We advise parents to try using positive language around your children when talking about maths. You may not mean to be negative, but your children may take it to heart. Your positivity may well improve their maths attitude!

2 Play maths games together

Many games use mathematical and logical skills that your children will need in later life - plus they're fun!. Games like jigsaw puzzles help children to develop logical & spatial awareness skills. Board games with dice develop children's counting skills. Other games that may help develop your child's maths skills are darts, scrabble, and chess. Get playing!

3 Learn their maths methods

You can also support your child's learning by getting to grips with the maths they learn, like the grid method and bar modelling. Sometimes parents try to help by teaching their children methods they learned in school. This can confuse children. Try instead to learn the method that your child uses by asking to see the school's Calculation Policy (usually on the school website), speaking to their teacher, or Googling it. This ensures continuity between school and home learning for your child and genuinely improves their learning!

4 Practise reading the time

As we move into digital, many children are growing up not reading analogue clocks. Make sure your child practises reading analogue clocks in everyday life, as this is part of the maths curriculum. It's as simple as reading the clock you may walk past on the side of a building, otherwise how will they ever be able to read the iconic Big Ben?