



Supporting your child's learning in Mathematics

Year 6

Ideas for helping your child to develop their **mathematical understanding**:

- Make sure your child is **absolutely confident** with the recall facts they need to know at speed.

- All times tables to 12 x 12
- Division facts for all tables.

To make the most of knowing these facts they need to be able to recall the answers without any hesitation or thought.

- Encourage calculations in real-life situations – in particular where more than one calculation is needed to work out the answer:
 - How much will our shopping cost? Going around the supermarket can they mentally add up the cost (use rounding to the nearest pound). How close are they at the checkout?
 - How do you work out the cost of your holiday? How much will a day out cost? Get them to investigate for you e.g. train tickets, entrance to attraction, budget for lunch etc.
 - Can they work out which purchase represents the best value e.g. cans of coke, washing powder, 2 for 3 etc. These often have special offers meaning they are difficult to compare. In this case they might use a calculator on a phone to work out.
 - Can they work out the new price on offers where there is 25% off etc.
 - How much more do you actually get if you get 50% extra?
 - Football tables/cricket leagues etc.
 - Talk about what the language of statistics actually means – the same information is often presented in different ways. It's not always clear as to what the truth is.
- Talk about the way we use maths every day:
 - Does your child see you using cash? Or do you always had over a card? Do they understand how you use your bank? Talk to your child about how debit cards work. Many financial transactions are 'invisible' to children. Help them see how the world of money works.
 - Does your child understand the difference between credit cards and debit cards? Do they know what interest is? (link to percentages)
- Talk about what are the aspects of maths that they find tricky – there may be aspects that you can help them with. Alternatively encourage them to talk to their class teacher about it. This is a good skill to have in preparation for secondary school.
- Useful websites – lots of games!
 - www.ictgames.com
 - <http://uk.ixl.com/math/years>
 - <http://www.schooljotter.com/showpage.php?id=68516>
 - <http://primarygamesarena.com/Key-Stage-2>
 - <http://www.compare4kids.co.uk/maths.php>
 - www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/
 - <http://www.offbyheart.co.uk/maths>
 - http://www.channel4learning.com/sites/puzzlemaths/games_menu.shtml
 - www.nrich.maths.org

For clear explanations of formal written calculations – www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise

This is a website for adults that gives good explanations of maths and English skills (good for complex punctuation and grammar as well as maths)