



The Mosley Academy



Helping your child with their Maths homework *Advice from the NAHT*

Top Tips:

- Be positive about maths! **Never say things like 'I can't do maths' or 'I hated maths at school'... your child might start to think like that themselves...**
- Point out the maths in everyday life. **Include your child in activities involving maths such as using money, cooking and travelling.**
- Praise your child for effort rather than talent - **this shows them that by working hard they can always improve.**

Helping with maths homework

Homework supports what your child is learning in school, and is a great way for children to develop skills such as time management and self-discipline.

But homework can also be a source of arguments and stress. With new methods of teaching, many parents dread being asked for help, and are worried about confusing rather than helping their children.

Whatever your maths skills, you can still help your child with homework.

General tips

- **If you don't know something, that's OK.** Try and work out the problem together.
- **Set aside some homework time** - routines help. Find a quiet place for them to work, and take away distractions if possible.
- **With younger children, you could even model homework time** to do 'homework' yourself e.g. shopping list, checking your phone bill. Show them that you also use the skills they're learning.
- **Rephrase the questions** into things that your child likes e.g. sweets, cars.
- **If they're doing well, praise them for the effort** they've put in 'well done, you worked so hard!', rather than 'talent'. This helps children learn that their abilities can always grow as long as they work hard.
- **When they get stuck, ask them to explain** what they've done so far and what they're finding hard. Try and help them work out where they've gone wrong.
- **If the homework is too hard** let the teacher know.
- **With older children, show interest** but let them be more independent.

Coming across a new method

- **Explain that with maths there's often more than one way to solve problems.** If you want to learn more about new methods:
- **Ask your child to explain their understanding** of the method - get them to teach you!

Questions to ask

- How does this connect to what else you're learning at school?
- What would you use this for in real life?

Remember: You don't have to be helping your child with homework to be helping them learn. It's developing a positive attitude with maths that will really help them long term

Why is maths important?

Good numeracy is the **best protection** against unemployment, low wages and poor health
Andreas Schleicher, The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

At all levels learning maths is about solving problems, thinking logically and being creative in finding ways of working things out.

A good understanding of numeracy will help your child with everyday tasks like solving problems, making decisions and understanding information. And help them develop lifelong skills such as:

- Sorting - into groups, into order, and comparing.
- Measuring.
- Calculating - adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing etc.
- Organising and understanding information.
- Looking for patterns and relationships between numbers.
- Making sense of and checking information - learning to ask 'is this answer sensible?'
- Communicating and presenting information.

Numeracy is still important even after children leave school. Children with good numeracy skills are more likely to

- Stay in education longer.
- Be in work as adults.
- Earn more throughout their lives.

Maths at work

As technology changes, maths is even more important for work. Maths graduates are among the highest earners, and employers in all sectors want staff with good maths skills.

Whatever career your child ends up in, they'll need maths every day. Look at [BBC Skillswise](#) or our [Maths at Work Pinterest Board](#) to see people from all kinds of workplaces talk about how they use maths.