

**CHANGING ATTITUDES
TOWARDS MATHS
FOR THE BETTER...
TOGETHER**

**Help us fight the
UK's '*Can't do it*'
attitude to maths.**

'We need as a nation to be more
confident about maths and to address
the numeracy skills gaps.'

-Jim Knight (former Schools Minister)

FACT:

Almost 1/4 of 11 year olds are failing to meet the expected numeracy standard.

FACT:

The importance of being able to count, calculate and work confidently with mathematical ideas cannot be overstated.

FACT:

One of the UK's biggest barriers is our cultural attitude towards maths.

FACT:

The UK is one of the few advanced nations where it is socially acceptable to admit to an inability to cope with maths.

FACT:

We need to provide home environments where mathematics is seen as an essential and rewarding part of our everyday lives.

FACT:

Children would like their parents to be learning the methods they are learning.

FACT:

Failure to calculate tips correctly, work out exchange rates or add up bills cost the average adult £32 a year (2007 figures) *Times newspaper.*

HOW...?

Avoid letting on if you didn't like maths at school or were frightened by it - you will end up influencing how they view maths too.

Ask them to show you what they have been learning - show interest and enthusiasm.

Tell them that it's different from how you were taught, and ask them to show you their way. Show interest and try it yourself with their help.

Talk about their schoolwork or homework and discuss possible solutions together.

Make maths fun: do puzzles or games together (e.g. Sudoku, Futushiki, crossnumbers)

Show your child how you use maths in your everyday life and involve them in it.

Encourage and support their revision for tests and exams.

Talk about the importance of maths and its necessity for careers.

Estimating, measuring, pricing anything!

Look for maths everywhere you go ...and discuss with them!

Negative mindset causes lower performance.

Most parents enjoy books with their children, but few will enjoy numbers or maths together.

Below are some maths ideas that are meaningful as well as interesting.

Hopefully your child will begin to see maths as part of everyday life, rather than just something studied at school.

It is very important for school and home to work together, and by fostering positive attitudes to maths at home, hopefully we can help our children at school too.

OUT AND ABOUT...

- Point out shapes, angles, lengths (e.g. in buildings, bridges, sculptures)
- Take your child shopping and compare prices (e.g. single versus multipack or different weights/volumes).
- Work out prices after a % reduction or sale.
- Ask your child to check change.
- Check the bill in a restaurant (estimate or add up exactly).
- Make up and play games (e.g. find a number plate that is a multiple of 3 on car journeys).
- Use timetables for trains etc. to calculate lengths of journeys.
- Calculate taxes, compare payment methods, and work out loans and home budgets.
- Work out or check bank balances.

IN THE HOME...

- Show them how to read a meter, work out gas/electric used.
- Show them the household bills.
- Look at calories etc. on food labelling.
- Mixing baby milk, squash, cleaning fluids etc. in certain proportions (e.g 1 part squash to 10 parts water – ratio.)
- Scaling up/down a cup-cake recipe to make more/less cakes.
- Working out whether you have enough bread for the week.
- Wallpaper, paint or tiling – calculating required materials and pricing up.
- Compare mobile phone tariffs.
- Look at sport statistics

JOURNEYS...

- Estimating if you have enough petrol for a journey.
- Estimating your arrival time given the distance you are travelling and the speed.
- Guess how far it is to something on the horizon and clock distance (in miles and km)

*Young children don't dislike maths or numbers...
their dislike develops over the years.
Children don't dislike reasoning... they enjoy
puzzles and games.*

GAMES...

require children to use strategies, make decisions and solve problems.

They develop understanding about numbers and how to use them (number sense) and computational skills.

Play games that help children develop decision making and mental math skills.

There are many games, such as board games or card games that involve patterns and probability.

Play games from your own family traditions such as counting games and games that keep score.

Ideas: Monopoly
Mastermind
Brain Training (Nintendo DS)
Professor Layton (Nintendo DS)
Blokus
Canasta
Pontoon
Yahtzee
Darts
Pass The Pig
Scrabble (literacy & numeracy)

...add your own ideas here!

*Solving a maths problem is like going...
...on an adventure.*

Ten people could go to Rome, but some may fly,
or walk, or go by boat.

They will all get there, but...

*...by a different route and method,
having a different adventure along the way!*

ASK YOURSELF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS...

- ➡ What are your views about maths?
- ➡ Did you like maths in school?
- ➡ Do you wish you were better at maths?
- ➡ Do you think anyone can learn maths?
- ➡ Do you think maths is useful in everyday life?
- ➡ Do you believe that most jobs require **some** maths skills?

If your answer is *Yes* to most of these questions then you are probably encouraging your child to think mathematically. This booklet may contain ideas to help you to reinforce these positive attitudes.

Contact your child's teacher... to see if your child is actively involved in maths and find out how you can help your child to better understand math problems.

Set high standards for your child in maths... make sure your child is challenged by their maths.

Encourage their interest in maths.

Help children see that maths is very much a part of everyday life... Maths is important to us every day. Help your child make these connections to maths.

Point out that many jobs require maths. From the plumber to the doctor, from the plant manager to the newspaper salesman, from the computer programmer to the hair salon owner, many jobs require a strong foundation in maths.

Help your child see that maths leads to many exciting career opportunities.

Utilise your child's interest in technology. Encourage your child to use calculators and computers to further learning. Use websites (e.g. mymaths) with your child to play games or support learning.

Join our maths4parents classes

- Try new methods that are used at the Priory and at primary schools.
- Discover that some parts of maths are very similar to the ones you used.
- You will pick up the new methods and vocabulary quite easily once it is explained to you.
- Fun evening sessions.
- Classes receive very positive feedback.
- Contact the Priory for further details.

Maths should be fun!

Your attitude to maths will have an impact on what your children think of maths.

Positive attitudes to maths are vital in encouraging your child to think mathematically.

Technology is changing so quickly that the workforce of the future will need quick reasoning, problem-solving skills and competence in maths.