

Region 5 Parent and Family Engagement Newsletter

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Resource: [Helping Your Child With Today's Math](#), PTA.org

*Math may not teach us how to **ADD** love or **SUBTRACT** hate but it gives us hope that **EVERY PROBLEM** has a **SOLUTION**.*

Title III, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), aims to ensure that English learners (ELs) and immigrant students attain English proficiency and develop high levels of academic achievement in English. Title III will also assist all English learners meet the same challenging State academic standards that all children are expected to meet.

Helping Your Child with Today's Math

What is "today's math?"

Today's math is designed to help your child compete and thrive in a rapidly changing world—academically, professionally, financially and socially. Math education should prepare your child to graduate from high school, get into college, start a career, and make smart, informed decisions in every area of life. To do this, today's math education may look different than it did when you were a child. That's because the world is different. We live in a different economy, with different jobs, requiring different skills. For your child to compete in top fields like science, medicine and technology, or even to create their own path, math—and the mental problem-solving skills it instills—is critical. Math is also essential to making good decisions in daily life—whether applying for financial aid, comparing mortgage rates or planning for retirement. Today's math is meant to prepare students to manage and enrich their lives.

Math Instruction for English Language Learners

Show how math is all around us:

Point out uses for math whenever you can—in the store, in the car or on vacation.

Be positive:

If you cried, "This is stupid, I'll never use this," while doing math when you were in school, you're not alone. It was a common refrain. And that's why the curriculum has evolved—to make math relevant to the real world. So if you get frustrated helping your child with homework, turn that frustration into determination. It's okay to tell your child you don't understand something. But make sure you also tell them how important it is to work through the problem until you arrive at an answer. Because they will use what they're learning someday.

Talk to teachers if you don't understand something:

If you feel ill-equipped to help your child with homework at times, or are confused about how they are being evaluated, talk to their teacher. Teachers know that parents have a lot of questions, and they are used to talking about today's math. Find out how you can work together with your child's teacher to support your child. Your state department of education also has materials explaining curriculum and assessments.

Set high expectations:

We know that every child is capable of succeeding in various math areas, including geometry, statistics, algebra, and calculus. It's not just a select few who go on to more advanced topics. Push your child to pursue math all the way to their senior year. They'll have a better chance of getting into and succeeding in college or advanced career and technical education training and going into a challenging and fulfilling career.

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Make math fun and relevant to life

These are just a few examples of how you can incorporate math into daily life. Ask your child to help you:

- ✓ Estimate the cost of groceries in your cart.
- ✓ Pay your bills.
- ✓ Determine how many gallons of gas you can buy with a certain amount of money.
- ✓ Figure out how many calories you need to burn to work off snacks you ate during the day.
- ✓ Calculate the cost of school lunch for the week or month.
- ✓ Determine how long your child will have to save their allowance in order to buy a new toy.
- ✓ Compare the costs of different cell phone plans.
- ✓ Determine how much paint you need to paint your child's room.
- ✓ Figure out if it's more cost-effective to lease or buy a car.
- ✓ Measure your garden or window box to determine how many plants and vegetables you can fit.



Ways to Help ELs Succeed in Math

Create Vocabulary Banks – show your children pictures or real objects around the house as an illustration.

Use Manipulatives – Manipulatives are drawings are important tools that make math content comprehensible.

Talk Through the Problems with Your Child – have them translate symbols into words

Challenge Your Child to Create Their Own Math Problems – This can be a fun activity if children create a problem similar to the ones they are doing in class and exchange problems with friends/family. By creating the problem and checking the answer children are reinforcing their own learning.