

# Kindergarten Math

## Tips for Parents



As kindergarteners develop their budding math skills, they need their parents' support and involvement. Because math skills build on each other, having a good foundation in math is very important.

The tips and information here will help you help your child stay on track in math—and have fun!

### Kindergarten Math: An Overview

In kindergarten, children learn about numbers, counting, grouping, and sorting. Here are some of the specific skills your child is likely to work on this year.

- ▶ Counting to 100
- ▶ Writing numbers up to 20
- ▶ Identifying and creating shapes
- ▶ Understanding relative terms, such as more, less, smaller, bigger, heavier, and lighter
- ▶ Solving simple addition and subtraction problems



## Support Math Skills Every Day

Increase your kindergartener's interest in math by showing how important numbers are in our daily lives, and by providing your child with fun opportunities to practice his/her math skills.

- ▶ Ask your child to bring you a specific number of objects, such as four spoons or five cups.
- ▶ Practice grouping and sorting items. For example, have your child sort Legos or blocks by color and shape, or put coins into categories (pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters).
- ▶ Play board games that require moving a number of spaces and card games that deal with numbers, such as "Go Fish."

### Learn the lingo: Manipulatives

Manipulatives are small, colorful objects, such as beads, tiles, counters, and cubes. They are the perfect tools to help your child practice counting and grouping. Manipulatives are especially ideal for children who learn by touch or doing.

Children are learning new math skills every day, and they may sometimes get frustrated. If your child is feeling discouraged or frustrated, provide encouragement and keep a positive attitude. Remind your child that being good at math isn't something you're born with—math is something you learn.



# 1st Grade Math Tips for Parents



As first graders develop their budding math skills, they need their parents' involvement and support. Because math skills build on each other, having a good foundation in math is very important.

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## First Grade Math: An Overview

In first grade, children build on the math concepts they learned in kindergarten. Here are some of the skills your child is likely to work on this year.

- ▶ Counting and writing numbers 20 to 120
- ▶ Using math symbols to understand addition and subtraction
- ▶ Drawing basic shapes
- ▶ Understanding the concept of whole, half, and quarter
- ▶ Telling time to the half hour
- ▶ Drawing and understanding simple graphs



# Support Math Skills Every Day

Increase your child's interest in math by showing how important numbers are in our daily lives, and by providing your child with fun opportunities to practice his/her math skills.

- ▶ Use drawings or small objects to practice adding and subtracting. For example, ask your child to draw two apples and six oranges, and to then count the total number of fruit. Show your child how this problem would be written on paper ( $2 + 6 = 8$ ).
- ▶ Provide small objects such as beads or cereal for your child to practice counting.
- ▶ Talk about terms such as less than, greater than, and equal.

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# 2nd Grade Math

## Tips for Parents



As second graders develop their budding math skills, they need their parents' involvement and support. Because math skills build on each other, having a good foundation in math is very important.

The tips and information here will help you help your child stay on track in math—and have fun!

### Second Grade Math: An Overview

This year, your child will learn more ways to work with numbers, including real-world applications. Here are some of the math skills your second grader is likely to work on this year.

- ▶ Adding and subtracting two digit numbers
- ▶ Memorizing addition and subtraction facts
- ▶ Skip counting by twos, fives, and tens
- ▶ Recognizing shapes and fractions of shapes
- ▶ Telling time and using money
- ▶ Measuring temperature and distance



## Support Math Skills Every Day

Increase your child's interest in math by showing how important numbers are in our daily lives, and by providing your child with fun opportunities to practice his/her math skills.

- ▶ Quiz your child on addition and subtraction facts (e.g.,  $8 + 3$ ,  $10 - 4$ ) while you're eating breakfast, driving to school, or making dinner. Be sure to keep it fun and pressure-free!
- ▶ Give your child a ruler to practice measuring objects around the house. When you're cooking, have your child help you measure ingredients.
- ▶ Let your child practice counting money using real or play money. Talk about the costs of different items at the grocery store. *"Which box of cereal costs more?"*

*Your child may be learning math very differently from how you learned it. Let your child teach you how he/she does math!*

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# 3rd Grade Math

## Tips for Parents



As third graders develop new math skills, they need their parents' involvement and support. Because math skills build on each other, having a good foundation in math is very important. The tips and information here will help you help your child stay on track in math—and have fun!

### Third Grade Math: An Overview

Third graders do addition and subtraction with large numbers, work with fractions and decimals, and learn how to do multiplication and division. To see how math skills are used in everyday life, students are often given multi-step story problems to solve.

Here are more of the skills your child is likely to work on this year.

- ▶ Multiplying and dividing numbers up to 100
- ▶ Rounding numbers to tens or hundreds
- ▶ Understanding important math concepts (e.g.,  $4 \times 3$  is the same as  $3 \times 4$ )





## Support Math Skills Every Day

Increase your child's interest in math by showing how important numbers are in our daily lives, and by providing your child with fun opportunities to practice his/her math skills.

- ▶ Quiz your child on multiplication facts (e.g.,  $8 \times 3$ ,  $4 \times 4$ ) while you're eating breakfast, driving to school, or making dinner. Be sure to keep it fun and pressure-free!
- ▶ Point out decimals in everyday life, such as examining how the gallons and dollars change when pumping gas.
- ▶ Have your child help you solve real-world problems. For example, ask your child to count out the correct coins to pay for an item, help you double a recipe, or figure out which grocery item is the best value.

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# 4th Grade Math Tips for Parents



As fourth graders develop new math skills, they need their parents' involvement and support. Because math skills build on each other, having a good foundation in math is very important. The tips and information here will help you help your child stay on track in math—and have fun!

## Fourth Grade Math: An Overview

Fourth graders do addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with larger numbers. Students work with decimals and fractions more in depth, and often practice these skills by completing story problems.

Here are some of the skills your child is likely to work on in math this year.

- ▶ Counting money up to \$100 and figuring out change, often in word problems
- ▶ Learning basic geometry (e.g., angles, area)
- ▶ Studying units of measurement, like weight, length, and capacity



## Support Math Skills Every Day

Increase your child's interest in math by showing how important numbers are in our daily lives, and by providing your child with fun opportunities to practice his/her math skills.

- ▶ Ask your fourth grader to help you solve real-life math problems. For example, have your child help you figure out how long it will take to drive to a particular destination, or how much an item will cost if it's half price.
- ▶ Model problem solving. If your child asks for help with homework, verbalize your thinking as you determine how to work out a problem.
- ▶ Tap into your child's interests. If your fourth grader likes to cook, have him/her help alter a recipe. If he/she likes sports, study the stats of a favorite player or team.

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# 5th Grade Math Tips for Parents



As fifth graders develop new math skills, they need their parents' involvement and support. Because math skills build on each other, having a good foundation in math is very important. The tips and information here will help you help your child stay on track in math—and have fun!

## Fifth Grade Math: An Overview

Fifth graders tackle more complex math problems, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, decimals, and fractions—sometimes in the same problem. Your fifth grader may also learn some basic geometry (e.g., measuring angles, figuring areas, plotting lines).

Many parents find that their fifth grader's math homework goes beyond what they remember doing in school. If you'd like to brush up on your math skills or learn how to do a particular problem, try watching YouTube tutorials or check out [KhanAcademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org).



## Support Math Skills Every Day

Increase your child's interest in math by showing how important numbers are in our daily lives, and by providing your child with fun opportunities to practice his/her math skills.

- ▶ Ask your fifth grader to help you solve real-life math problems. For example, have your child help you figure out how many miles it is to a destination, which grocery item is a better value, or how much to leave for a tip.
- ▶ Model problem solving. If your child asks for help with homework, verbalize your thinking as you determine how to work out a problem.
- ▶ Tap into your child's interests. If your fifth grader likes to cook, have him/her help alter a recipe. If he/she likes sports, study the stats of a favorite player or team.

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