

GENERAL TIPS & ADVICE

As parents your role is not to replace the teacher. Instead, you should see this time with your child as an opportunity to experience learning together. Here are some tips that may help you get started.

Asking Questions

You do not have to have all the answers or know all the content – the tip is to ask questions to help discover ideas with your child together. Here are our top 3 questions:

1. What do you think?
2. How did you do that?
3. How can we check if that is right?



Different Strategies

Recognise that there are different strategies to solve problems in maths, just like there are many ways to make spaghetti bolognese or drive into work. As we discover more about how children learn and retain information many strategies used in maths have been adapted. This does not mean that the strategy that you are familiar with is wrong, nor does it mean the method your child is using is silly. A good idea is to use a strategy, known as a **Number Talk**, to try different strategies and talk about the similarities and differences between them.

Positive Mindset

Avoid telling your child you 'hate maths' or 'maths is not important' as this can lead to maths anxiety. It is ok not to know the answer or even where to start with the problem. The idea is to think about what you do know about the problem and use this as a starting point. Check out this TED Ed video for more information on maths anxiety: <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/why-do-people-get-so-anxious-about-math-orly-rubinsten>

Learn Together

It is ok if you do not know something, but the tip is to admit it if you are unsure. Make a note of the question or area of concern and come back to it at a later stage. There is an abundance of resources that can help us discover unfamiliar content and it is ok to ask for help. On the **AMSI Schools** website we have the **TIMES** modules that can provide information about content along with strategies currently being used in schools with students. They are sorted into year level and topic: <https://schools.amsi.org.au/times-modules/>

Forget Speed

Being fast does not mean that you are better at maths than others. Some of the best mathematicians worked on problems for years (even decades). The tip is not to rush. There is evidence to suggest that time pressure can lead to anxiety and we can all appreciate that stress is not a state that is conducive to learning. So, it is important to give children the time and space to work through their ideas. Walk away and leave them for a while and when you come back encourage them to talk about what they have done so far. This is a great way for children to self-identify errors as they share their learning experience.

Make Maths Fun

If the activity you are doing seems like a chore to you, your child no doubt feels the same. Play games with your child and enjoy the learning. Mix things up. Try the same activity standing up or in another room. Go outside and use chalk to try out the problem or play the game. Our **MathsTalk Podcast** on *Using Maths Games and Activities during Home Learning* has some great ideas: <https://calculate.org.au/mathstalk-podcast/>. You can also visit the **AMSI Schools Calculate** website to discover more games and activities you may wish to try: <https://calculate.org.au/games/>.

For more information to support your child, download the **AMSI Schools Finding the Maths Parent Booklet**. <https://calculate.org.au/2017/11/21/finding-the-maths/>