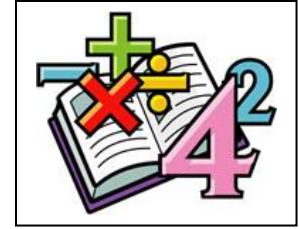


Amsterdam School Title 1 Newsletter May/June



Math Homework Help Suggestions:

Here's the most important one:

1. If the situation has escalated to tears (the child's or YOURS), take a break. Once things are this hot, not much concentration or learning can occur. (Of course, if the tears are fake and produced just to get out of doing the homework -- leave the room and make them tough it out!)
 2. Keep in mind that math can be one of the most frustrating things on the planet. This is triply compounded if the child does not have a strong enough foundation in the topics building up to the task at hand.
 3. Referring back to #2 on the list: When helping, try to identify if the difficulty is with skills that the child should have already mastered. If it is, then your energies are best spent on reviewing. The child will not be able to move forward if the foundation is not there.
 4. Let the child know that you understand their frustration... BUT don't feed it! Don't say things like, "Oh, I know. I hate math too!" You can, however, say something like, "I had trouble in math too. But I wish I would've stuck with it better than I did."
 5. If the child has procrastinated and is now trying to do their homework at the last minute - and trying to make everyone in the house suffer with them... It might seem cruel but let them suffer alone. Even if it means that they won't get it done and their grade will suffer. Rescuing the child who has procrastinated will only cause them to do it again and ASSUME someone will bail them out. This is not a good view of the world to develop.
- Here's an easy example: If the child can't do long division because they can't do the subtraction part... Then a review of subtraction is needed.

Here's a list of questions you can ask the child when they are stuck:

- 1) Is there an example in the book like this?
- 2) Do you have an example like this in your notes?
- 3) Can you do some easier problems and go back to this one after?
- 4) What part of the problem is giving you trouble?
- 5) Let's read the problem together and make sure we understand what it is asking.
- 6) Can we draw a picture of the problem? (This works well for word problems.)
- 7) Can we make up an easier problem that is similar to this? Then we can work our way up to this one.
- 8) What did your teacher say about this assignment?
- 9) Why don't we take a 10-minute break and come back to this when we aren't so frustrated.

Dates to Remember

Monday, May 2nd – Kindergarten Roundup

Wednesday, May 25th – Spring Concert 1pm

Monday, May 30th – NO SCHOOL

Wednesday, June 1st - Field Day/PAC lunch

Thursday, June 2nd – Last Day of School/
Report cards go home

Here's a thought.....'

Research suggests that adults' attitudes toward math can play an important role in children's math achievement. Studies have shown that "math anxious" parents can hinder children's math achievement.



Fun Website to Visit

www.aplusmath.com

Features free math worksheets, games
flashcards & more! Grades K-6

Expect Respectful Behavior

It's true that no matter what format classes take: Respectful behavior helps teachers teach and students learn. To encourage respect:

- **Name it** when you see others showing it.
- **Praise it** when your child shows it.
- **Correct** disrespectful behaviors privately.
- **Pass compliments** about your child's respectful behavior along to your child!