

How Can I Help My Child Find Success in Math?

Grades PreK and Kindergarten

How to Support your Student in Math

★ Foster a Positive Math Mindset

- Emphasize effort, strategies, and persistence. With hard work, anyone can be successful in math.
- Avoid saying things like “I’m not a math person.” Instead, model a growth mindset: “With hard work, I will continue to grow and learn in math.”

★ Encourage Perseverance

- Let your child struggle productively with challenging problems.
- When they feel stuck, encourage them with phrases like, “This is helping your brain grow!” or ask, “What have you tried so far?”

★ Focus on Understanding, Not Shortcuts or Quick Calculations

- Ask your child to explain their thinking, even if their answer isn’t finished.
- Instead of showing a “faster way,” listen and ask questions like, “Why does that work?” or “Can you show me in another way?”

★ Speed is Not Important

- Working quickly doesn’t mean deeper understanding. The biggest discoveries in mathematics took time and perseverance.
- Math facts can be practiced through games, stories, or puzzles that build flexible thinking—not timed drills or flashcards.

★ Build Deep, Lasting Understanding

- Choose activities that encourage reasoning, problem-solving, and number sense. Trust the sequence taught at school—strengthen current learning rather than rushing ahead.
- Use everyday moments (shopping, cooking, building) to spark math conversations.

★ Make Math Fun and Playful

- Play board games, card games, or puzzles as a family.
- Celebrate creativity, collaboration, and perseverance—these are the habits that make mathematicians successful.

TAS Parent Post Articles

Mathematics is more than just numbers and equations—it’s about thinking, reasoning, and problem-solving. At TAS, we are dedicated to fostering mathematical proficiency in young learners by focusing on five key components: Productive Disposition, Procedural Fluency, Conceptual Understanding, Strategic Competence, and Adaptive Reasoning. This five-part series explores each of these components, demonstrating how they support students’ mathematical growth and confidence.

- [Building a Math Mindset in Lower School: Productive Disposition](#)
- [Mastering Procedural Fluency: Building Strong Mathematical Foundations](#)
- [Deepening Conceptual Understanding: Making Sense of Mathematical Ideas](#)
- [Strengthening Strategic Competence: Empowering Problem-Solving in Math](#)
- [Making Sense of Math: Adaptive Reasoning and a Year in Review](#)

TAS Math Resources	
Translated Quarterly/Module Reports (Kindergarten only) ◦ Japanese 日本語 ◦ Korean 한국어 ◦ Mandarin 中文	
Research in Mathematics Education The articles below are published by respected institutions and reflect current research in mathematics education.	
• 5 Ways to Build Math into Your Child's Day • Fun and Easy Activities for Exploring Early Math at Home • Support Math with Materials in Your Home • Helping Your Child See and Show Mathematical Ideas • Advice for Parents from Professor Jo Boaler	• 10 Things to Know About Math • Parents' Belief About Math Change Their Child's Achievement • Everyone Can Learn Math to High Levels • The Mathematics of Hope • 100 Percent is Overrated • Seeing as Understanding • Fluency without Fear
Math Resource Sites These sites are reputable resources aligned with research-based best practices in math education.	
• NAEYC- National Association for the Education of Young Children • Erikson Institute- Family Math • DREME Family Math	• PBS Kids for Parents • Figure This! • Youcubed at Home • Bedtime Math
Commercial Board Games The games below are appropriate for a child in PreK or Kindergarten.	
• Tiny Polka Dot • Hoot Owl Hoot • Q-bitz Jr. • Set Jr. • Uno	• Hi-Ho Cherry-O • Count Your Chickens • Fish Stix • The Ladybug Game (Zobmondo) • Snug as a Bug
Print and Play Activities The games below require only a dice, deck of cards, and/or counters of some kind. A few have printable game boards that can also be recreated on a blank piece of paper.	
• Math Dots Bingo • Butterfly Number Search • Apple Tree 1, 2, 3 • Numbers and Ten-Frames Bingo • Scrambled Numbers • Dots, Tallies, and Numbers Bingo • Mystery Number • Beat You to Five	• Beat You to Ten • Spill 10 • Which Bug Will Win? • Which Numeral Will Win? • Memory • Bears in a Cave • Nrich games

Memory

Materials: A deck of Cards – use only half of the deck (such as only the red cards) and remove the face cards (Jack, Queen, King)

How to Play:

1. Arrange the cards face down in an array.
2. Players take turns turning over a pair of cards. If the numbers match, the player wins the two cards and takes another turn.
3. If the cards do not match, they're flipped face down and the next player has a turn. Play continues until all number matches are found.



Bears in a Cave

Materials: 5-10 bears or other counters, one cup or bowl (opaque)

How to Play:

1. Start with 5 bears (or another number of bears between 5-10). Make sure both players know the total number of bears.
2. Player 1 covers their eyes while Player 2 hides some bears under the cup and leaves the rest showing.
3. Player 1 looks at the bears showing and tries to figure out how many bears are hiding.
4. Trade roles and play again.