

FAMILY MATH IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEARS

Elementary school years—usually between ages 7 and 12—is a time when children grow a lot in how they think, feel, and act. They become more independent, start thinking more deeply, and begin to understand the world beyond just their family and home. Friendships get stronger, kids begin to know themselves better, and they take on more responsibility at school and in life. In math, this is when children learn key skills like multiplication, division, fractions, and measurement. They also start solving problems in new and more complex ways. This stage is important because it helps shape how they feel about math for years to come.

WHAT FAMILIES CAN DO

Keep High Expectations:

Kids at this age begin to believe what others say about their abilities. When families show that they believe in their child's math skills—and give support when things are hard—it helps children keep trying and take pride in learning. If families expect only memorization or say things like "some people just aren't good at math," kids may lose confidence and motivation. Instead, we should expect all kids to grow and think in different ways.



Talk About and Do Math Together:

Families can make math part of everyday life in fun and easy ways. Ask questions during homework like, "How did you figure that out?" instead of giving answers. You can double a recipe while cooking, talk about prices and saving money when shopping, or measure things when doing a home project. Play games that use logic or strategy, and focus on effort and trying, not just getting the right answer. You can also use technology—watch short math videos, do online practice on sites like Khan Academy or Zearn, and explore what your child is learning in school together online.

Build a Connection with Teachers:

Families and teachers should work as a team to support a child's math learning. Ask how your child is doing in math—not just compared to other students, but how they're growing over time. Stay in touch with teachers, go to school events, and ask how math is taught in class. This helps families know how to support their child better. Families can also find out about fun math programs outside of school—like afterschool clubs, maker spaces, library events, or STEM classes—that keep kids curious and excited about learning. When families and teachers work together, children feel more confident and see that math is something they can succeed in anywhere.



RESOURCES

Digital Tools: Family-friendly resources that make math fun and accessible through games, videos, and interactive lessons your child can explore at their own pace.

- [Khan Academy](#)
- [Zearn](#)
- [Play Math](#)

Math Standards: Resources to help families understand grade-level math expectations and clear, practical tips to support learning at home.

- [Learning Heroes: Readiness Roadmap](#)
- [Seek Common Ground - Family Guides](#)
- [What Is Common Core Math? A Complete Guide for Parents](#)
- [Resources for Parents and Families on Common Core](#)

Community Celebrations: Ideas for hands-on, joyful learning community experiences that spark curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving.

- [Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival](#)
- [Maker Faire](#)
- [Remake Learning](#)

Afterschool Math: Resources that build family math in afterschool programs.

- [Afterschool & STEM Learning](#)
- [STEM Family Engagement: A Planning Tool](#)
- [Crazy 8s Math Club](#)
- [Technovation Families: Design Challenges](#)
- [Afterschool Math Plus](#)