



Parent Resources for Math Learning

Parents are important influencers of students' math learning experiences. One especially notable learning from the Math Narrative Project research is that while parents express a deep desire to help their students learn math, many feel like they are unable to help when their child is stuck or confused. Their own negative experiences learning math, feeling they are not 'good at math,' unfamiliarity with how math is currently taught, or unfamiliarity with available resources can stop parents from feeling like they can or should take an active role in supporting their child's math learning.



When presented with a selection of potential math learning resources, parents often jump at the opportunity to support their child. Below is a research-tested list of math learning resources shared with parents and the brief frame used to introduce it. It highlights examples that students, teachers, and parents say they use to either learn or support students to learn math. Parents respond most positively to the list when it includes a mix of free and low-cost help, online and in-person options, and varying levels of direct adult support. The platforms and resources highlighted in the list below can contract or expand, depending on what different communities have in terms of resources or online accessibility. Ideally, any list should offer a variety of tools.

Introduction

As a parent, you may or may not feel like you can help your child with math when they feel stuck or need clarification. However, there may be other ways to support them in learning math.

- **Extra help from their math teacher:** If your child is worried about asking for help during class in front of other students, you can encourage them to ask at lunchtime or after school. Many teachers also offer office hours and time during their free periods for students to drop by with questions.
- **In-school tutoring programs:** Your child's school may have a free tutoring center or a peer tutoring program for many subjects, including math.
- **Help from other students:** Your child may have a friend or a classmate who is not only good at doing math but who also likes to help others. Some kids also use text messages to work together on homework or ask each other questions after school.
- **Free, online tutorial websites** (like Khan Academy) for kids to learn different types of math—from counting in kindergarten to advanced algebra and trigonometry in high school.
- **Online how-to videos** (like on YouTube) that explain challenging math ideas and allow kids to work at their own pace. Kids can also find different examples of how to solve a problem, which can be helpful if the way shown in one video doesn't make sense to them.
- **Math apps** (like Photomath or Mathway) that can scan and recognize math content (like algebraic equations) and provide step-by-step tutorials on how a particular math idea works.
- **Subscription-based websites** (like Desmos and Symbolab) that offer tools and resources for kids to help them learn math.
- **Forum websites** (like Brainly) allow kids to post questions about math problems and have experts respond with answers and suggestions.