

Yes, I Can Help My Child I Really Can!

Thursday March 31, 2016.

This handout was developed using the
Powerpoint online presentation:

[PPT] [Yes, I Can Help My Child](#)

<https://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/studentsuccess/lms/files/ICanHelp.ppt>

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Yes, I can ...

- Share daily/weekly/monthly math experiences with my child



Children make every day life connections as you share with them your mathematical experiences.

Tell them about your banking, household budgeting, expenses, utility bills, grocery costs. They need to hear what they'll be required to know in their adult lives.

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Home Activities ...

- Play games - Chess, Checkers, Cribbage, Bridge, Euchre, Memory Games, Backgammon, ...
- Make puzzles.
- Involved your child with shopping.
- Engage in the mathematics of cooking and baking.
- Plan and execute home renovations.

Simple board and card games develop logic and number sense. Make and do puzzles (2D, 3D, crossword, word) can be used to practise patterns and vocabulary and to develop spatial sense. Make a budget, estimate the cost while shopping, watch for fluctuating gas prices. Children who see every day life connections develop an interest in math. They will want to run their households successfully as adults. Practise with fractions and measurement while cooking and baking. Home renovations and construction often require measurement and geometry knowledge and skills learned in mathematics classes.

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Yes, I can ...

Support my child through homework challenges by listening and asking questions



When your child gets stuck on a math assignment, listening and asking questions is more helpful than telling.

You won't always have the answers to all the questions. Sometimes you can ask questions to help children clarify what they know and what they need to know. By listening to what they explain, you are giving them the chance to organize their thoughts.

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Yes, I can ...

- Allow my child to struggle through the process of problem solving
- Discuss mistakes as learning opportunities



Sometimes it's hard not to jump in and give the answers as the child is struggling or doing the question incorrectly. It's important to allow the child to struggle and persevere in problem solving.

Learning how to get oneself unstuck is part of the learning curve. Discuss mistakes as learning opportunities. Pose questions that guide to where the thinking went wrong and to possible next steps.

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Questions to Ask ...

- What do you need to find out?
- Tell me what you know?
- Show me what you started?
- What can you try first?
- Can you make a drawing or picture?
- Will a list or table help?

Use these questions when a child is presented a word problem.

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More Questions ...

- Why did you...?
- What can you do next?
- Do you see any patterns?
- Does the answer make sense?
- Tell me in a different way...
- What would happen if...?

The Expert Panel report indicates, "Students must regularly be given the opportunity to struggle with mathematics problems. By denying them these experiences, or by providing excessive assistance to shelter them from what is perceived as mental pain, teachers and parents can end up "crippling kids with kindness." (*Chatterley & Peck, 1995*).

Problem-Solving Strategies

- Guess and check
- Look for a pattern
- Make a diagram or model
- Act it out
- Work backwards
- Simplify the problem
- Eliminate possibilities
- Make a systematic list
- Get advice or research
- Sleep on it

This list of strategies may suggest one or more starting points for solving a problem.

Prompts ...

- Ask your child to show you how he/she is finding the answer.
- Share your method.
- Explain to each other why your different methods are successful.

Providing shortcuts for getting the answer might hinder deeper student understanding.

It is important to validate students' approaches to problems and recognize that there is more than one way to solve most problems.

Internet Sites ...

- www.nctm.org/families
- www.mathforum.org/parents/citizens.html (Dr. Math)
- www.amathdictionaryforkids.com
- <http://dev.edunetconnect.com/peelsecondary>
- www.tv.o.org/eureka (ask a teacher)
- www.mathadventures.com
- www.purplemath.com (lessons & tutorials)
- www.mathonline.com