

Supporting your junior learner at home

- It is important for both you and your child to have an open mind and a positive attitude about math.
- Remember that children use their emotions to tell them what is important to learn and remember. Positive emotions inspire us to pay attention. Negative emotions (such as frustration, fear, and anxiety) “turn off” the brain’s switch for learning.
- Be a coach. Praise your child’s efforts. Encourage your child to learn from mistakes. Celebrate correct solutions and encourage your child to take new risks.
- Talk math. Ask your child to explain what they have learned. Ask them to show you how to do a math problem.
- Encourage your children to double-check their work.
- Bring the classroom into your home. Post helpful posters. File handouts with math strategies in a reference folder or notebook.
- Help your child manage allowance money by creating a budget together.
- Make math fun! Read math-themed books and play math games together (including those that involve using technology).

Remember that before children can become interested in math, they have to be comfortable with it. And before they can be comfortable with it, they must believe that they can succeed!

Recommended Resources

There is a wealth of information on the internet in addition to the links and other resources listed below. For an up-to-date list, please check our website.

Math support

Mathies, a website designed for Ontario K–12 students and parents.
mathies.ca

Enrichment

The Problem of the Week (Grades 5/6). You can sign up for emails that contain weekly math problems.
cemc.math.uwaterloo.ca/resources/potw.php

Online games and apps

MathFrog—**M**ATHematics **F**un **R**esources and **O**nline **G**ames (in English and French)

Free activities for grade 4, 5, and 6 students and their parents.
cemc2.math.uwaterloo.ca/mathfrog

Tumbletown Shop Around. This site helps children learn about financial literacy.
twokids.com/games/tumbletownshoparound

What are the Chances? Children experiment with spinners and dice.
twokids.com/videos/whatarechances

The Prime Radicals Pentomino App.
twokids.com/apps/primeradicals-pentominos

Illuminations: Resources for teaching math.
illuminations.nctm.org

Books

Mathemagic: Number Tricks, Lynda Colgan

Counting on Frank, Rod Clement

The Math Curse, Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith

What’s Faster than a Speeding Cheetah? Robert E. Wells

Module Four

Fact Sheet

Junior (Grades 4, 5, and 6)

Counting Ahead

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Handy math facts for the junior division

Characteristics of children in junior division

Children in junior division tend to be:

- Independent. They do not want to be treated like a child.
- Developing interests and hobbies.
- Social.
- Competitive.
- Comparing themselves to their peers in terms of appearance, achievement, and friends.
- Self-conscious about their academic, social, and athletic abilities.
- Likely to be physically animated and restless.

Most children in junior division enjoy:

- Learning.
- Talking.
- Contemplating abstract concepts and ideas. They have a good attention span.
- Teasing and testing boundaries. They have a sense of humour that often escapes adults around them.

Math milestones for children in junior division

It is important to remember that not all children learn the same way or on the same day. Milestones, or learning expectations, are meant to broadly describe what your child should know, based on the curriculum, by the end of junior division.

Always remember to talk to your child's teacher or teaching team (including educational assistants, special resource teachers, and the school principal) if you have any concerns about your child's development.

By the end of grade 6, your child should be able to:

- Add and subtract decimal amounts to thousandths.
- Multiply and divide four-digit and two-digit whole numbers by two-digit whole numbers.
- Multiply and divide fractions.
- Calculate rates, ratios and proportions.
- Explain the relationship between simple fractions, decimals, and percentages.
- Convert large metric units to small metric units (for example, metres to centimetres).
- Develop and apply geometric formulas to find perimeter, area, and volume.
- Predict the frequency of an outcome in a probability game (such as rolling dice) by calculating and using the theoretical probability of that outcome.

Parents and caregivers are not expected to be math experts. It will never be your responsibility to teach a specific math lesson. But you can help your child to stay motivated and develop a positive attitude!

