

Math tips and strategies to *support your student*



Strategies

Here are some actions you can take when your student expresses frustration:

- Review the directions together.
- Keep a positive attitude while validating and acknowledging struggle.
- Apply the 20 minute rule. If your student truly seems stuck after 20 minutes, encourage him or her to take a break. As your student takes time to regroup, determine the next steps to effectively assist your student which may include contacting the teacher.
- Present yourself as an ally and that you are available to support them on their learning path.
- Resist the urge to do the work for your student.
- Ask prompting questions

Prompting Questions

Sometimes helping your students can be as easy as asking a question that redirects their attention if they get stuck. To get students ready to solve a problem, you can ask any of the following questions:

- What are you being asked to determine?
- Can you describe the problem in your own words?
- How will you know if your answer is right?
- Will it help to make a diagram?
- Where do you think we should begin?
- What do you think we should do next?
- What do you know about the problem already?
- Does your answer make sense?

Tips for Using Prompting Questions

With any new approach, it does take time to develop a habit. Remember these tips as you practice applying your new prompting questions skills:

- **Support your student through the struggle.** It can be tempting to jump in at the first sign of struggle and show your students how to complete the math problem. Provide time to try and try again, with a little guidance from you.
- **Embrace the problem solving process.** Anxiety can be contagious. Be mindful not to share your resistance to the subject and embrace the entire problem solving process. Sometimes it can take students a longer amount of time to complete a problem, and that's okay as long as your students are eventually able to get to the right answer.