Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board

Math Moment…

Supporting Your Child's Learning in Math at Home

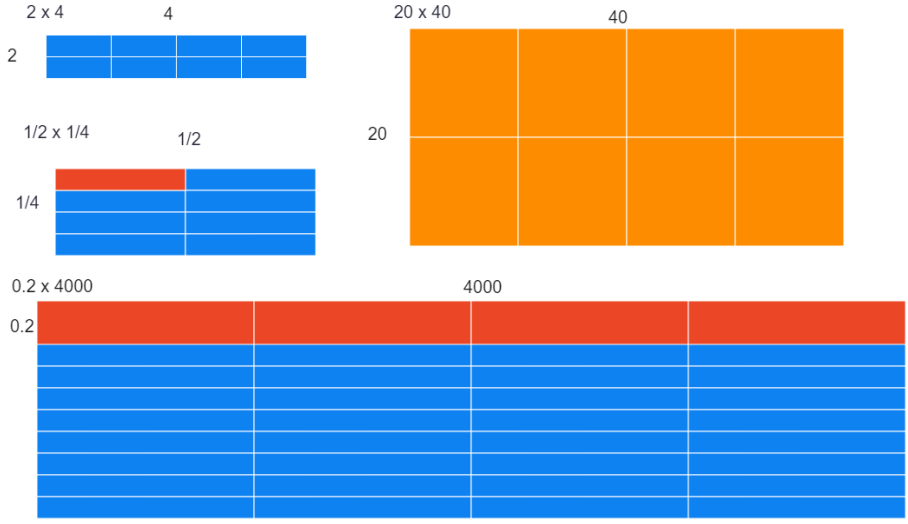
Allow your child to teach you

If you ask any teacher, most will agree that even when it is a simple topic they know inside out, once they have to explain it to someone else, they are forced to consolidate knowledge and try new ways of explaining it. When you happened to be faced with a question that you cannot answer, explain that you are stuck too and challenge your child to figure it out just well enough that they can try to explain it to you. Even if they help you only a little bit, they may spark some insight that allow you to finish where they left off.

Give the "new" Math a try!

If the thought of "new" math intimidates you, it is understandable. However please know that the "new" Math is no different from the "old" Math. It is not that multiplication, division, and fractions have drastically changed, it is more about how we have better strategies and tools for explaining them.

One major source of debate is how multiplication that previously took just a few lines to work, now involves seemingly endless equations and diagrams. However, it is important to note that students are learning fundamental strategies that allow them to better understand how, for example 2 x 4 extends to 20 x 40, 1/2 x 1/4, and 0.2 x 4,000. This way, students will be able to group the concept of multiplication deeply enough to lean on whatever method helps them, even the quick algorithms you might be more used to.

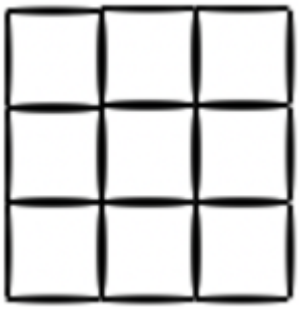


Instead of just showing your child the method you know, explain it as another method you use. Let your child try to show the method learned in class and work through the strategy together. Admit to your child that it might be hard for both of us, but we will work through and learn it together. Modeling a growth mindset is important in being a life long learner.

Check out April's Math Problem! Share your strategies with @PVNCCDSB using #PVNCLearns and #PVNCMath!

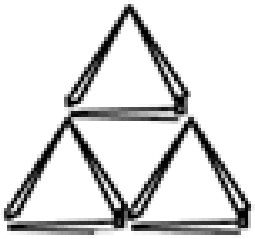
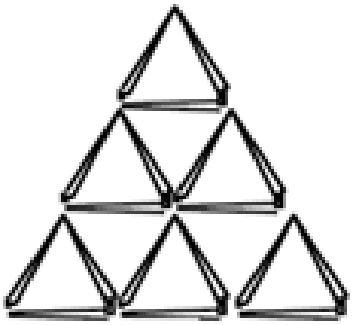
- Each classroom is welcome to use and/or modify the question to meet the needs of their students.
- Consider having a similar challenge in the entrance/corridor of the school for parents, guests, staff members, and students to contribute to.

The following squares are made with toothpicks.

1 x 1 square	2 x 2 square	3 x 3 square
		
4 toothpicks	12 toothpicks	24 toothpicks

How many toothpicks would it take to make a 5 x 5 square?

What might the pattern look like for triangles? How would the numbers change?

Base of 1 triangle	Base of 2 triangle	Base of 3 triangle
		
3 toothpicks	9 toothpicks	18 toothpicks