







## Do Math...and You Can Do Anything!

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# 10 Ways Parents Can Help “Zap the Gap”

1. Let your child know that he/she can succeed.
2. Keep your comments positive and offer praise whenever possible. Express confidence in your child’s ability to do math. 
3. Talk with your child about mathematics and listen to what they are saying. Connect math to real world situations you encounter as a family – it makes learning more fun!  <http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/math/index.html>
4. Provide a special place for your child to study. Post a calendar and have your child write assignments and test dates on it.
5. Insist that your child master the basic facts of  $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $\times$ ,  $\div$ . Fluency in the basic facts allows freedom to enjoy the beauty of mathematics.
6. Use online math resources to review previously learned skills. [www.matific.com/us/en-us](http://www.matific.com/us/en-us)
7. Never use math as punishment! 
8. Encourage your child NOT to quit. If a problem is too difficult have your child place a “?” by it and continue the assignment. Encourage your child to ask the teacher about it the following day.
9. Give your child tasks that require thinking and problem solving. Use the UPSC (Understand, Plan, Solve, Check) Problem Solving steps as a guide.  <http://www.mathplayground.com/thinkingblocks.html>
10. Use the Virginia Department of Education website for excellent Mathematics Instructional resources specifically related to the Virginia Standards of Learning and Assessment. [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards\\_docs/mathematics/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/mathematics/index.shtml) - 2001 and <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/mathematics/index.shtml> - resources 