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How a Parent Can Be a Math Teacher for Younger Kids by Jim Wheelin

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As a parent, your role in your child's education is incredibly important. When you spend time teaching your child, you're laying the groundwork for a successful academic career. It's particularly important for parents to actively teach young children mathematics. You don't have to be a professional math teacher to help your child learn the basics of the field, and by regularly practicing math problems with your child from an early age, you'll be much more adept at spotting weak areas that need more attention in the class room.

For many parents, the most difficult part of teaching a young child is knowing where to start. If your child is in school, your at-home practice should coincide with in-school lessons. If you try to rush kids into new lessons to quickly, they might become frustrated, which won't be conducive to learning. With that being said, it's alright to let your child progress at his or her own pace. You'll have to closely monitor your child's progress to see whether he or she is struggling with particular lessons, and fortunately, it's easy to do this when you're working with the right types of tools.

Using Technology To Stay Ahead

Computer software can be your best friend when you're acting as a math teacher to your child. Modern math programs are capable of presenting kids with dozens of different types of problems and adapting to their learning styles. What's more, good math software will allow you to easily track progress, which can be particularly useful during the first few years of your child's education.

The biggest advantage of online math programs is that they keep kids interested in mathematics, which is one of the biggest challenges of teaching math at home. Kids love playing on computers, and when math programs present colorful, video game-like graphics, they'll want to stay glued to the screen for hours. Limit practice time to half an hour or so per day and you'll be able to keep your kids consistently interested while supplementing their in-school educations.

Why Adaptive Learning Is Important

Your child's math teacher might occasionally mention adaptive learning and many online math programs will discuss adaptive learning techniques in their sales material. The term basically refers to a system of lessons that progresses at a child's own pace. New lessons aren't introduced until the core concepts of the previous lesson are fully understood. Older lessons are occasionally revisited to ensure that the material is solidly understood.

Adaptive learning is important for mathematics, as many kids will struggle with their lessons if the lessons aren't introduced in a logical way. Younger kids who move from one lesson to another too quickly will often lag behind the rest of their classmates, and as kids learn in very different ways, it's important to use differentiated techniques when teach math at school or at home.

Try to find an online math program that uses adaptive learning techniques. Look for programs with good reporting capabilities and make sure that lessons are presented in a gradual, intelligent way. When you've found a good program, you can introduce it to your child's in-school math teacher for a great in-home and in-class educational experience that will compel your child to learn in a natural way.

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Jim Wheelin - About Author:
Jim Wheelin writes about different educational topics for parents, kids and teachers. His recent articles provide useful advice for any a math teacher looking to make their lessons fun and interactive. Jim strongly encourages other parents and teachers to test educational games such as the ones offered at a http://www.dreambox.com/teachertools-match-n-make.

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