

The background features a central grey spiral on a light grey background. Overlaid on this are several geometric shapes with thick black outlines: a red rectangle at the top left, a green cross at the top right, a large blue 'X' on the left side, two purple rectangles on the right side, a brown circle at the bottom center, and a brown rectangle at the bottom center.

How to help your child  
Improve their maths skills.

Maths is an important part of daily life and we need to equip our child with the tools and skills to be effective mathematicians.

Always be positive about maths.

Avoid saying you are bad at maths, or don't understand it.

Work with your child, make it a pleasant experience. If you are unsure about some element, try learning together.



For some children Maths can be difficult and they need to be exposed to the same information many times before it becomes automatic.

Slow

Simple

Supportive

Having a rich vocabulary and being able to use and understand the different words used in maths is important.

# addition

- add
- more
- plus
- sum
- total
- altogether



# subtraction

- subtract
- minus
- leave
- less
- take away
- difference between



# multiplication



- lots of
- times
- multiply
- groups of
- product
- multiplied by
- multiple of
- repeated addition
- array





# division

- divide
- divided by
- divided into
- share
- share equally
- equal groups of



# Number bonds

These are taught in Key Stage 1. Starting with bonds to 10, then moving on to bonds to 20.

Why are number bonds so important?

Make numbers bonds a daily occurrence.

Use different games. Make it visual.

Cards.

Make a snakes and ladders game with number bonds.

Snap. <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.smntardee.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Snap-number-bonds-to-10.pdf>

Once the child has instant recall of the facts to 10, you are then able to move onto facts to 20.

However, keep revisiting number bonds to 10 as the child will still need to practise these.

# Resources that can help

Maths with Michael WRM.

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/maths-with-michael>

National Numeracy

<https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/helping-children-maths/family-maths-toolkit>

The most important thing for your child to do is know their times tables.

They need to know them by rote and be automatic.

Don't worry if initially they do not understand them, this will be taught in school.

Children start with their 2, 5 and 10's.

Move onto 3, 4, 6 and 8

then the rest are learnt.

If your child is secure with one times table, move them onto the next one.

It is important that children also learn to use their times tables to solve multiplication calculations.

For the calculation

$$6 \times 24$$

children are encouraged to think of what they already know.

Therefore  $6 \times 12 = 72$  twice

Resulting in  $6 \times 24 = 144$ .

## Resources available on the internet to help with children's maths.

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/1-minute-maths#download>

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/maths-with-michael>

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/resources/digital-tools>

<https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/>





**Children can struggle with maths at any age. With primary schools being such a hotbed of learning, it can often be hard for parents to keep up with how their child is progressing. But at one time or another you may be told or find out the hard way that your child is struggling with maths.**

There are a number of reasons why a child might struggle with maths, ranging from maths anxiety through to a range of special education needs (once referred to as maths difficulties and learning disabilities). Your child might be a reflective learner and already thinking to themselves, “Why do I struggle with maths so much?”

Whatever the reason behind the struggle, in this post we will be running through how you can figure out whether or not your child is finding maths frustrating, and how you can help them master maths!

This blog is part of our series of blogs designed for parents supporting [home learning](#) and looking for [home learning resources](#) during the Covid-19 epidemic.

### **What do we mean by ‘struggling with maths’**

It’s definitely hard to judge whether a child is having mathematical teething problems, or if your child really is a KS2 pupil who is struggling with maths.

Determining where your child is within the expectations of their age range or year group is definitely a good start – if your child is in Year 1 and can’t solve quadratic equations, that certainly doesn’t mean they will become a 6-year-old who struggles with maths!

We’ve put together some guidance to help you figure out what’s going wrong and how you can help your child in their maths learning covering:

- How to identify out what your child is struggling with in maths; and
- How to help your child in maths once you’ve figured out what’s holding them back, including techniques to make sure your child catches up, keeps up – and even – gets ahead in maths.

## **What you can do to help your child if they're struggling with maths**

### **Stay positive – It sounds simple but many forget to do this**

First things first – don't highlight the issue and definitely do not say, "I am not a maths person" or encourage your child to write themselves off as "not a maths person" either.

[Numerous studies](#) have proved that a young person's future attainment in maths can be affected negatively more than any other factor by parents leading them to believe that "I am not a maths person-itis" is a congenital, [hereditary family trait](#).

### **It is not.**

If you struggled with maths yourself, it probably had something to do with how you were taught by your teachers in the way-back-when.

You might even be suffering with 'maths trauma' – for example, consciously or subconsciously deterred from engaging in maths having been ridiculed by classmates or, even worse, a teacher when called up to the board to solve a problem at school.

Following an event of that kind, it creates a debilitating fear of being wrong – a terrible tragedy, as maths learning should be about making mistakes and learning from them!

'Maths trauma' as one might expect is the leading cause of maths anxiety, but there is lots you can do to help. As parents, it is important to support children in believing they can succeed in all areas of learning. By closing a door on a particular subject area it could mean putting a roadblock along the way of a [career path](#) your child might find harder to pursue later on in life.

**To help your child if they're struggling in maths three words can guide you: slow, simple, supportive.** These three words are all you need to help your child achieve everything they can in their maths learning, so we've looked at them in a little more detail below along with a few additional pointers for parents and carers.

### **1. Take things slowly**

If you've noticed or been alerted to an area of a struggle in your child's maths learning your instinct will likely be to go all guns blazing and to throw the kitchen sink at the issue to get them up to speed. By taking a moment to step back and figure out what might be best for your supporting child rather than forcefully plugging a specific gap in their knowledge, you stand a better chance of building towards sustained progress and improvement in their learning.

### **2. Keep things simple**

At school, if a child is struggling with their work in maths their teacher will give them a simpler question or provide them with more concrete resources like number lines, times tables grids, counters or multi-link cubes to simplify the task.

People often think that it's only younger children that use these pieces of equipment and supports; however, the best teachers use them with pupils throughout primary school and these resources are more commonly used at secondary school nowadays too.

You could do the same at home by drawing a number line, having a times tables poster at hand, [keeping your maths dictionary at the ready](#), or using pasta pieces or lego to represent amounts.

It is best not to overload your child by dumping overly complicated tasks; however, over-simplification is a problem too.

Having them learn their times tables by rote is only helpful if they can draw links between knowing that, for example,  $2 \times 7 = 14$ ,  $7 \times 2 = 14$ .  $14 \div 2 = 7$  and  $14 \div 7 = 2$ , allowing them to recognise the relationship between multiplication (which should be introduced as repeated addition, adding 7 lots of 2 or 2 lots of 7 together) and division and allowing them to identify numbers' factors too.

### **3. Be supportive**

[Patience truly is a virtue](#) when passing knowledge or a skill from one person to another.

Perhaps you can remember moments in your own life where you didn't get something immediately and being put off the task or the instructor as they vented frustration at you – learning to drive being easier to stomach with one parent rather than the other, or an exasperated teacher at school whose lack of composure and consideration put you off their subject area.

## **5. Talk about maths at home.**

Find ways of building maths into day-to-day life, all the old favourites, like asking your child the prices of items in shops, having them work out the cost of that day's groceries, or identifying the shapes of windows and other features on buildings to incorporate some shape too.

There are many [free maths websites and homework sites online](#) to assist you in supporting your child in maths. Equally, real-world or paper-based games can help with mathematical thinking like [Su Doku](#), [card games](#), [Battleship](#) and chess.

Finally

Please remember

Number bonds for all numbers from  
1 to 20.

Learning multiplication facts with  
associated division facts are the bedrock  
for most maths and once learnt will aid  
your child enormously.