

STRATEGIES FOR HELPING YOUR YOUNG MATHEMATICIAN AT HOME

SUPPORT POSITIVE ATTITUDES TOWARDS MATHEMATICS

- ◆ Let your child know that all students can be successful in mathematics.
- ◆ Let your child know that you recognize the importance of mathematics.
- ◆ Encourage your child to be persistent when the work becomes difficult.
- ◆ Encourage your child to think of math problems as puzzles or games.
- ◆ Reward your child with praise when he or she is successful.
- ◆ Be patient and give praise when your child shows effort.
- ◆ Avoid negative comments and criticism.
- ◆ Don't underestimate your own mathematical capabilities.
- ◆ Don't say, "I was never good at math."

USE A VARIETY OF TECHNIQUES WHEN YOU ASSIST YOUR CHILD

- ◆ Encourage your child to use a variety of strategies:
 - Look for a pattern,*
 - Guess and check,*
 - Draw a picture,*
 - Make a table,*
 - Make a graph,*
 - Model with concrete objects,*
 - Work backwards*
 - Choose the appropriate computational operation.*
- ◆ Encourage your child to restate the problem in his or her own words.

PARTICIPATE AND INTERACT WITH YOUR CHILD

- ◆ Do math problems together. Ask questions that promote thinking, and discuss your own thinking.
- ◆ Have your child explain his or her thinking to you.
- ◆ Play games and puzzles with your child that deal with such things as estimation, time, money, logic, classification.
- ◆ Discuss how you use mathematics in your life.
- ◆ Involve your child in daily activities that require the use of mathematics:
 - Making purchases,*
 - Measuring ingredients,*
 - Estimating distances and times.*

PROVIDE MATERIALS THAT PROMOTE AND SUPPORT MATHEMATICS

- ◆ Be sure your child has a well-lighted, quiet place to work.
- ◆ Make available familiar objects (toys, blocks, straws, buttons, etc.) that your child can use as concrete materials to solve problems.
- ◆ Provide paper, pencils, calculator, rulers and scissors.
- ◆ Encourage your child to use the manipulative materials to solve problems and to do difficult calculations.
- ◆ Encourage your child to estimate answers before working out the problems.
- ◆ Encourage your child to use a variety of strategies.