

How can I help my child further in maths?

I have put together some suggestions below, depending on which skills need to be improved.

My child does not know their times tables

Knowing their times tables ideally means they can tell you the answer to any times table question in the same way they can tell you what the capital of England is. Some pupils may have tricks for certain times tables such as the 9s and this is absolutely ok.



Hit the Button – this is such a simple website that can be used on any device. For true times tables mastery, you need to use the times tables, division facts and square numbers games. Little and often is great – although even I find it addictive when I play it!

The only thing to watch out for is that it is easy to play with times tables you already know to gain a massive score.

My child does not have quick recall of simple number facts



Some pupils have pretty good problem solving skills, but find getting to the correct answer difficult or requires over reliance on written methods. Try asking your child what half of 70 is, or to double 118, or what you need to add to 45 to make 100. If they find these things a real struggle, all maths problems that come their way are going to feel like a massive effort, or they are more likely to lose marks due to errors.

I know it's the same! But it is so simple and targets just the right skills. And as you can choose the challenge level, you can start at the right point for your child and then build up the difficulty.

My child finds remembering the calculation methods difficult

There are many websites that have free printable worksheets such as <https://www.kidzone.ws/math/> or you can just make up your own together. Small amounts of practice, talking through each step out loud, is a good idea.

My child finds worded problems challenging

Your child's maths teacher will be able to give you other practice test papers in addition to the ones set for homework. Smaller numbers of questions that are fully understood are better. Try covering up the actual question and discussing, or drawing the problem. Discussing whether the answer should be bigger or smaller than the numbers in the question will help to learn which calculation is appropriate.

My child finds tests challenging – time, focus, confidence, or accuracy

Many of the above will help develop the skills to improve this. However, there are also fantastic resources made by CGP to provide extra practice in short manageable bursts. They are much cheaper when bought through school.

- KS2 maths– 10 minute tests £2.25
- KS2 maths – Arithmetic £1.85

- KS2 English SATs – reading £2.25
- KS2 English SATs – grammar £2.25

How can I help my child further in English?

My child finds spelling difficult

For children who find spelling in general challenging, whether diagnosed dyslexic or not, the following website contains a wealth of ideas and resources to help develop spelling memory and recall.

<http://www.beatingdyslexia.com/spelling-strategies.html>

This spelling strategies section is filled with lots of useful techniques and information. The English language can seem complicated and confusing. This is because the sounds generally match up to the letters in a variety of ways ([see Phonic Alphabetic code chart for clarification of this point](#)). Therefore to be a good speller you need to learn how to use your memory more effectively.

For children who are just requiring more accuracy, creating a bookmark with their common errors can be a useful prompt when writing. Trying out unfamiliar words three times to find a spelling that 'looks' right is a useful strategy too. And of course, checking in a dictionary is essential either as they write, or as part of the editing process.

My child finds reading difficult

If this is the case, they are likely to already be on Lexia or Accelerated Reader. Discussing the book they are reading will help to gauge how well they are understanding it. We encourage pupils to 'post-it note' while they are reading, making a note of any words they are unsure of, and drawing pictures or making brief notes about what has happened over a few pages.

For pupils that are finding SATs reading tests themselves hard, the order form over the page has a great, good value resource, that contains 10 minute tests to build up reading stamina and accuracy when answering questions.

My child finds the grammar test difficult

Often, it is remembering the wide vocabulary of technical words that can be the stumbling block. Doing practice papers, buying the booklet on the order form, or going back over their homework book can help. Although these are sometimes the skills that seem lower in value, pupils need to have these technical terms sorted as they use them all the way through KS3 and need them to get good grades in their English GCSE.

<https://www.educationquizzes.com/> - although this has a subscription cost, there are so many quizzes for all ages of students, that it could benefit more than just pupils in year 6. There are some free sample quizzes that you and your child can try – I had a go and found them quite good fun!