

Questions to ask when helping your child with homework

What is the problem about? Tell me in your own words.

What did you do in class to get started?

Can you make a diagram or draw a sketch?

What assumptions are being made?

Are you solving the right problem?

Could there be any missing or extra information?

Can you solve a simpler version of the problem?

What have you already tried? What steps did you take?

Can you tell me what you know so far?

What is the important information you need to solve the problem?

Can we break the problem down?

Is there a pattern?

Does the answer make sense?

Could there be more than one answer? How do you know?

Is there anything you could have overlooked?

Did you do all the parts of the problem?

Did you check the arithmetic?

Did you label your answers?

Did you show all your work?

What did you think you were supposed to learn from this homework?

What new questions or problems might you now pose and explore?

Adapted from: *Helping Your Child with Math at Home*, Parker, 2006.



Online Resources for Parents

Helping Your Child Learn Math from the US Department of Education

<http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/math/math.pdf>

Common Core State Standards Initiative

<http://www.corestandards.org/>

Explain It to Me Videos from Math Solutions

http://www.mathsolutions.com/index.cfm?page=nl_wp2b&crd=303&contentid=1491

Parent Roadmaps to the Common Core from the Council of Great City Schools

<http://www.cgcs.org/Page/244>

Parents' Guides to Student Success from the National PTA

<http://www.pta.org/5308.htm>

Illuminations from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

<http://illuminations.nctm.org/>

Investigations Resources from TERC

<http://investigations.terc.edu/families/>