** How to help your child do well**

**with 3rd Grade math**

(ideas taken from “Math for Moms and Dads” from Kaplan, published 2008)

►The first step is to help **improve your child’s math “fluency”** –learn and use the vocabulary words (attached) to review and clarify all the terminology you need to speak “math” well.

►The second step is to **model the behavior** you want to see in your child. Even if math is difficult for you, still encourage your child to take on the challenge of learning and doing math well. Show your child you believe they can learn how to things that are difficult, including math.

►Next, help your child **see the connections** between math and everyday life. Math surrounds us everywhere, whether we are baking, putting money in a savings account, looking at the shapes of common objects, or determining what the tip for the waiter should be. Hearing “When are we going to get there?” can be a great moment to talk about elapsed time!

►Finally, **establishing good work habits** will take your child far down the road to success. These habits include excellent computation, showing all their work EVERY TIME, and a disciplined homework routine. *Math mastery requires good habits.*

What do we mean by “**excellent computation**”? This means knowing the facts quickly – being able to answer *correctly and* *without any hesitation* **all** the basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts up to 10 x 10. The more quickly and accurately your child can compute, the easier math will be – and the higher your child’s math grade! Quiz them the facts whenever you are waiting or have a moment to spare.

Further, **showing their work** EVERY TIME is critical because it means your child can easily check their work for mistakes. When students can review their work to find and correct their errors, making a mistake stops being scary. They become better, independent learners. An incorrect answer is a starting point to see where they can fix their thinking process and learn how to get it “right” the next time.

A **disciplined homework routine** means doing homework as soon as possible after getting home from school. *Homework should be a top priority!* Have the child sit away from *all* distractions, including the computer, television, music, and cell phones. You don’t need to hover while your child does homework. Be on call if your child has a question, but sitting next to your child increases their reliance on you, emotionally and academically. Let your child do their homework to the greatest extent possible on their own, and then review it. Use mistakes as a starting point to see where your child needs additional help and instruction. This is a great thing to discuss with your child’s teacher.

Here are some ideas to make a **parent/teacher meeting** more productive:

-Model your relationship with a teacher after the one you have with your pediatrician. You don’t show up unannounced at the doctor’s office – you call first and make an appointment. You don’t tell the doctor how to do their job; you listen and trust the doctor’s advice.

-You also don’t wait until the child has 105º F fever to call the doctor – you call them at the first signs of illness. Use the same standard with the child’s teacher – if you think there’s a problem, schedule an appointment to meet with the teacher sooner rather than later. Stay on top of your child’s progress and monitor their performance on their homework.

One last thing: remember you and your child’s teacher have the same goal: we both want your child to succeed! We understand that during a parent/teacher meeting, we are discussing the most important kid in the world.

Here is a basic overview of what we will be learning in 3rd grade math:

**Operations and Algebraic Thinking**

* Represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division.
* Understand properties of multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division.
* Multiply and divide within 100 (we learn the multiplication facts up to 10 x 10).
* Solve problems involving the four operations, and identify and explain patterns in arithmetic.

**Number and Operations in Base Ten**

* Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic.

**Number and Operations—Fractions**

* Develop understanding of fractions as numbers.

**Measurement and Data**

* Solve problems involving measurement and estimation of intervals of time, liquid volumes, and masses of objects.
* Represent and interpret data.
* Geometric measurement: understand concepts of area and relate area to multiplication and to addition.
* Geometric measurement: recognize perimeter as an attribute of plane figures and distinguish between linear and area measures.

**Geometry**

* Reason with shapes and their attributes.

Math is like going to the gym for your brain: It sharpens your mind.

Danica Mckellar

**Mathematical Practices**

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.