# Let's Talk About You, Your Child and Mathematics!

Parents/Guardians can help their children see the value of mathematics as a way of understanding the world around them. You can provide experiences for children to apply skills learned at school to everyday situations at home.

**Communication**

Students need opportunities to talk to each other about mathematics. Talking about mathematics is not just giving the correct answers it is communicating to make sense of things.

Some "math talk" strategies:

- *Be a good listener.*
- *Encourage your child to talk about how they arrived at certain solutions.*
- *Help them organize their ideas by asking questions that focus their thinking.*

## MATHEMATICS IS EVERYWHERE!

- http://www.dreambox.com/
- http://www.figurethis.org/index.html
- http://mixinginmath.terc.edu/materials/athomewithmath.cfm

Math skills are important to a child's success – both at school and in everyday life.

Understanding math also builds confidence and opens the door to a range of career options.

Having a positive attitude towards mathematics will help your child see that anyone can learn math!

Help your child by creating a supportive environment. Listen carefully, encourage hard work, and take an interest in the math they are learning.

**Counting: Some Things to Try**

- Encourage your child to the list off numbers 1 to 10 in the right order. While not necessarily counting, it helps them become familiar with number sequence.
- Vary what you count: count objects, but also steps, stairs, and sounds.
- When you are walking in the neighbourhood, count the number of red cars you see, "1 red car, 2 red cars, 3 red cars -- today we saw 3 red cars." This helps give kids a clue to the fact that things can be categorized, and therefore counted, in different ways.

**Teacher Talk**

Your child's teacher can provide advice about helping your child with math. Here are some topics you could discuss with the teacher:

- *your child's level of performance in math*
- *the goals your child is working towards in math, and how you can support your child in achieving them*
- *strategies you can use to assist your child in areas that she/he finds difficult*
- *activities to work on at home with your child*
- *other resources, such as books, games, and websites*

**What Are Our Goals for Students as they Study Mathematics?**

- To use mathematics confidently to solve problems
- To be able to use mathematics to contribute to our society
- To appreciate and value math
- To communicate and reason mathematically
- To commit to lifelong learning

**REMEMBER**

*You are the first and most important teacher*

WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

**Knowing how to do math makes our day-to-day lives easier!**

# My Counting Stepping Stones

I can count forward to 30

I can count backward from 20

I can say a number before and after any number to 20

I can say a number before and after any number to 10

I can count backward from 10

I can count forward from 20

I can count forward to 10

I can count forward to 5

**Start here!**

***Instructions:***

*Start with the first stepping stone (purple box) at the bottom left corner of the page.*

*Each stone builds upon previous ones, so please help your child learn them in order.*

*Practice with your child by counting out loud. At first, you might have to teach him/her the words in order. Then, practice by taking turns saying the number words. Finally, your child will be able to recite the counting sequence on their own.*

*When your child is able to perform the task on a stepping stone with ease, they can begin to learn the skill on the next stepping stone.*

***Remember, have fun!***

I can count forward to 10 by 2s

I can count forward to 20 by 5s

I can count forward to 100 from any starting point

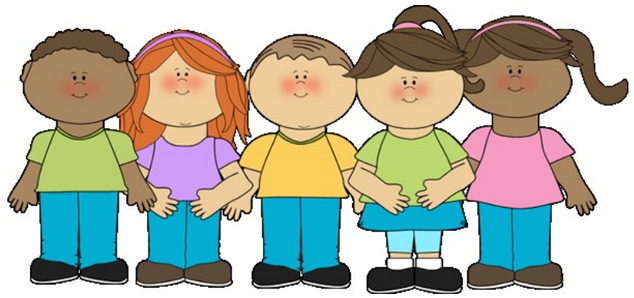
I can count backward from 100

I can count forward to 100 by 10s

I can count forward to 100 by 5s

**Almost there!**

I can count forward to 30 by 2s



**You are getting better!**

Stepping Stone Key

- practice counting forward
- practice counting backward
- practice ordering numbers

I can count forward by 2s from an odd number

I can count forward by 10s from any number between 1 and 9

I order numbers between 0 and 100

I can count past 25 by

- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4

I can count backward from 100 from any multiple of:

- ☐ 2
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 10

I can count forward to 100 from any multiple of:

- ☐ 2
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 10

***Vocabulary a counter needs to know:***

***even****—the numbers you say when counting by 2s (starting at 2) 2,4,6...*

***odd****—the numbers you say when counting by 2s, (starting at 1) 1,3,5...*

***skip counting****—when you count by skipping the same amount each time counting by similar groups rather than by 1s. E.g. Skip counting by 5s, say 5,10, 15....*

***multiple****—the numbers you say when skip counting*

I can count forward and backward to 1000 in a variety of ways. ex. 1s, 2s, 5s, 10s, 25s, 100s, from any starting point

I can count forward using fractional parts

- ☐ $\frac{1}{2}$
- ☐ $\frac{1}{4}$
- ☐ $\frac{1}{10}$

***Count Everything!***

*Count toys, kitchen utensils, and items of clothing as they come out of the dryer. Count steps, stairs, and sounds.*

*Help your child count by pointing to and moving the objects as you say each number out loud.*

*Count forwards and backwards from different starting places. When you ask the question: How many are there? Children will progress from counting each object to counting by groups, which leads to learning about addition/subtraction and multiplication/ division. Learning to count helps children be more* ***confident mathematicians.***

**Way to go...you are now an expert counter!**

*The word "child" includes son, daughter, or young person in your care.