

# Questions & Answers

**Q:** My son struggled with math last year and now he says he hates it. I can't really blame him, because I'm not good at math either. How can I help him develop a better attitude?

**A:** Research shows that parents' attitudes about math have a lot to do with how well their children do in math. Kids who enjoy math do better in it. Kids whose parents tell them they didn't like math when they were in school, not surprisingly, often have trouble in math.

To help your child develop a positive attitude that will lead to success in math:

- Be positive. Let your child know you believe everyone can be successful in math. If you say this often to your child, he'll start to believe it!
- Avoid stereotypes. Women can be engineers. Children of all races can be successful in school. In fact, students who are successful in math can go a long way toward breaking the stereotypes that others may hold.
- Talk about careers. Young children may decide that being a Ninja Turtle or a Power Ranger is a great career choice. Expand their horizons. Talk about people who use math in their jobs—an airline pilot, a weather forecaster, an architect, an astronaut, etc.
- Connect math to the real world. When you and your child go to the store, bank, restaurant, etc., point out all of the ways people use math. At dinner, challenge family members to tell one way they used math that day.

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