



## How can I help my child look forward to math?

Your support and encouragement are vital to your children’s success in mathematics. The attitude you display toward math is picked up by your child. Students with a positive attitude toward math develop self-confidence and are able to take risks.

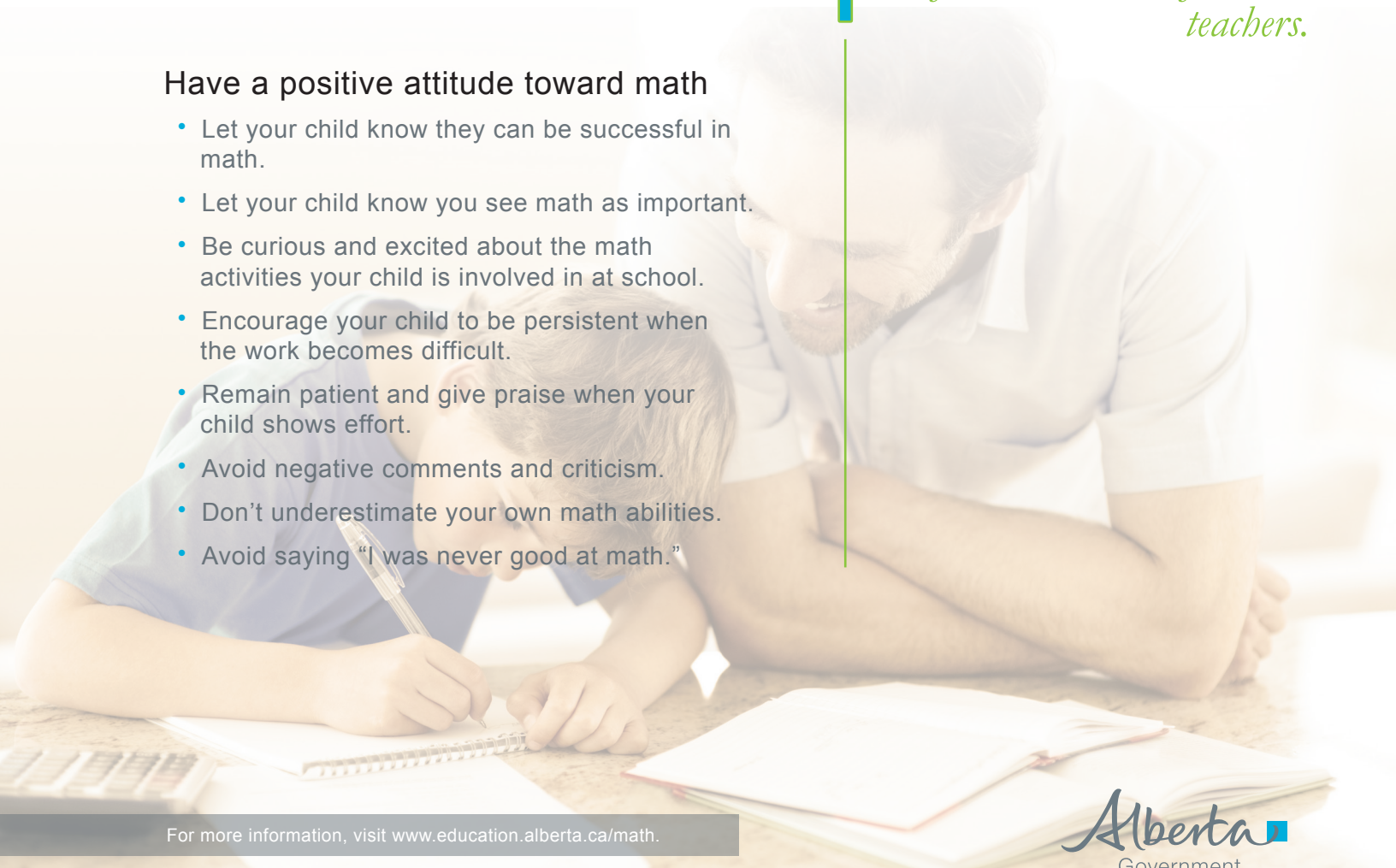
Parents can help students see math as useful and necessary for life. Include your child in activities that require mathematics, such as making purchases, checking the time, measuring ingredients for a recipe or paying bills. In this way, your child can see the relevancy and immediacy of mathematics.



*Parents are their children’s first and most influential teachers.*

## Have a positive attitude toward math

- Let your child know they can be successful in math.
- Let your child know you see math as important.
- Be curious and excited about the math activities your child is involved in at school.
- Encourage your child to be persistent when the work becomes difficult.
- Remain patient and give praise when your child shows effort.
- Avoid negative comments and criticism.
- Don’t underestimate your own math abilities.
- Avoid saying “I was never good at math.”





### How might I support or promote a math environment at home?

- *Play games and puzzles with your child that deal with logic, reasoning, estimation, direction and classification (Concentration/Memory, chess, checkers, Othello, Sudoku puzzles, cribbage, Clue, card games, etc.).*
- *Do math problems together! This could include problems such as mixing juice crystals with water, figuring out how long to cook a roast or turkey, determining how to set the table for a certain number of people, etc.*
- *Involve your child in daily activities that require the use of mathematics. This may include managing time, folding or sorting laundry, feeding pets, checking the television schedule, determining driving routes or cooking.*
- *Provide familiar objects (toys, blocks, buttons, measuring devices, etc.) so that your child can use them to help solve problems.*
- *Provide materials such as pencils, paper, rulers and scissors to use for study or creative play.*
- *Listen carefully to your child's explanation of what he or she is learning.*
- *Talk to your child's teacher for ways to support math at home.*

*Adapted with permission from the Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia.*