

## Go Beyond Grades

# Questions to Ask Your Child's Teacher About Math



FOR  
3-8

Math skills are essential for life– including daily tasks, problem-solving, creativity, career options and more. Here are questions to ask your child's teacher as well as tips and resources to support math at home.

### ☐ Is my child at grade level in math?

- Report card grades are only part of the story. Ask about other measures such as 'benchmark' tests (MAP Growth, Mclass, I-ready, etc.) that together give you a full picture of grade-level progress. You want to hear how the school is finding out what your child knows and how they will build from there.
- If your child isn't at grade level, ask: how are they being supported with skills from past grade levels (known as remediation) while also focusing on grade-level skills (known as [acceleration](#)).
- Find out what they need to learn to get them on track for grade level. For example, just as phonological awareness is critical to learn to read, developing a strong '[number sense](#)' is critical for math.
- Ask for grade-level math examples like classwork so that you know what it looks like.

### ☐ What else should I be looking out for as my child does math homework and classwork?

- "[Today's math](#)" might look different to parents but it's intended to set kids up for the real world. Look for how your child shows they really understand the math skills being taught and are able to use (apply) them.
- Math anxiety can be real, but you can help your child build confidence to not only succeed in math but love it, too! For example, you can support your child's math learning by 1) Reminding them that making mistakes is how we learn 2) Working with your child and their teacher to set and track goals 3) Celebrating progress and success! Zearn offers [free resources](#) to help families create a positive mindset around math (including embracing positive struggle).

Try this free [Readiness Check](#) to get a gut check on how your child is progressing with key grade-level skills. Get activities and videos to support those skills at home. Khan Academy's [Get Ready courses](#) help prepare students for their next grade level. PBS Learning Media has [free videos](#) sorted by grade level and subject.