

Some very good news

Your child's school is one of many taking part in the Ministry of Education's Numeracy Projects.

These projects aim to improve the quality of maths teaching and to raise the level of student achievement. They are based on careful research about how children learn.

This means that your child will be learning to:

- enjoy working with numbers
- make sense of numbers – how big they are, how they relate to other numbers, and how they behave
- solve mathematical problems – whether real life or imaginary
- calculate in their head whenever possible, rather than using a calculator or pen and paper
- show that they understand maths, using equipment, diagrams, and pictures
- explain and record the methods they use to work out problems
- accept challenges and work at levels that stretch them
- work with others and by themselves
- discuss how they tackle mathematical problems – with other students, their teacher, *and* you!

Questions?

How important is equipment?

When children meet new mathematical ideas for the first time, it is essential that they explore those ideas using equipment. ("Equipment" can mean anything from fingers and clothes pegs to calculators.) Once they understand an idea they should try to use it without the support of the equipment.

What about times tables?

Children should be able to make sense of addition and multiplication before they try to memorise their tables. But when they do understand, it is important that they learn these basic facts and can recall them instantly.

What about calculators?

Children should do most calculations in their heads. They should only use pencil and paper or a calculator when the numbers are hard.

How well is my child doing?

To make progress, children need to understand what they are doing and be able to work with numbers quickly and confidently. People, however, learn at different rates. You can ask the teacher where your child is at, what ideas they are working on, and how you can help.

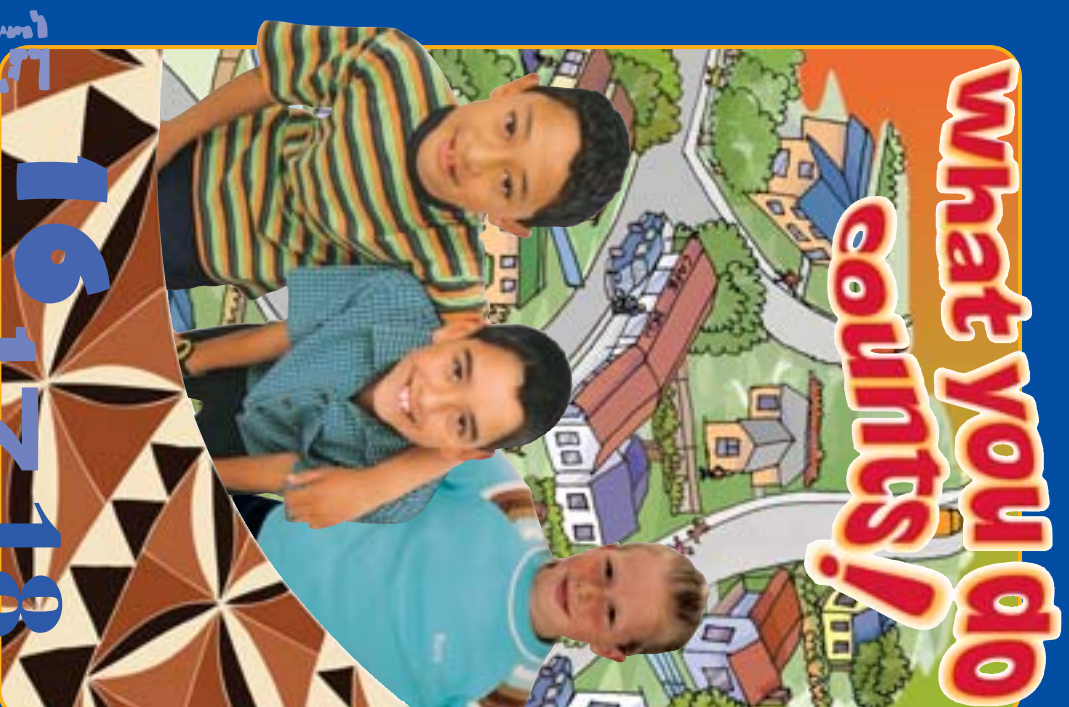
For a full explanation of the Numeracy Projects, see www.nzmaths.co.nz

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**Help your child to
develop numeracy ...**



Your child looks up to you. What you say and do can make a very big difference to their success with maths. Here are some simple ways in which you can encourage them and help them learn:

Discuss what everyday numbers mean.



Play mathematical games together.



There is usually more than one way to solve a problem. If your child has a strategy that works, praise them. If yours is different, that's quite OK.

Work together on problems around the home.



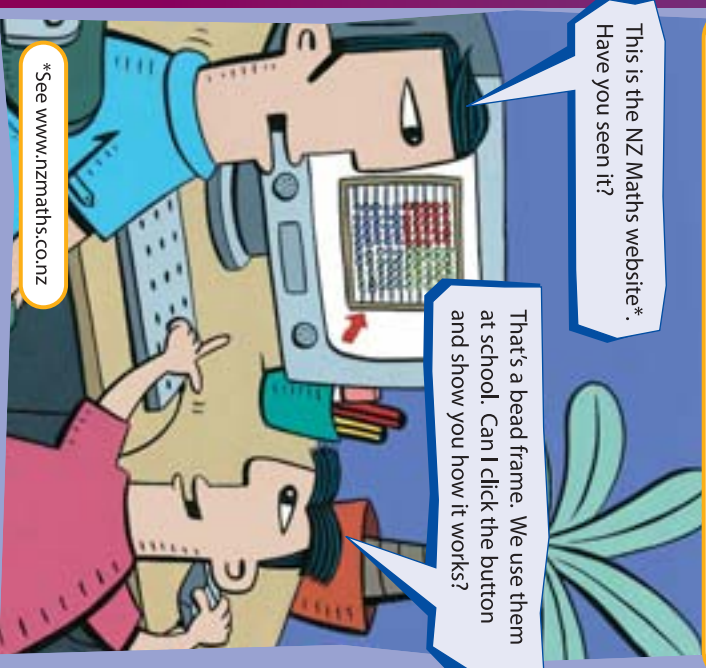
Take an interest in how your child figures things out.



Help your child to manage time and money.



Explore numeracy websites together.



*See www.nzmaths.co.nz