

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?

What about basic facts?

Children need to know, almost without thinking, what the result is when they add or multiply any pair of numbers between 1 and 10. They should learn these basic facts as soon as they understand how addition and multiplication work. Their confidence and success with maths depends on it.

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.

What about bookwork?

Most children will have untidy sections in their maths exercise books, especially where they have been thinking through problems. They should also have tidy sections, where they have written out important ideas or results.

What does my child need for high school?

To be ready for high school, your child should understand how numbers behave, know their basic facts, be able to do most of their working without a calculator, and be confident that they will usually be able to "figure things out".

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

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Help your child to develop numeracy ...

what you do counts!



Numeracy Projects
Years 7–8

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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.

The goal shoot for the Silver Ferns is 1.94 metres tall.

Is that taller than you, Dad?



Play mathematical games together.

8 more makes 15. I get 2 points!

Another 8 makes 23. 2 points for me!

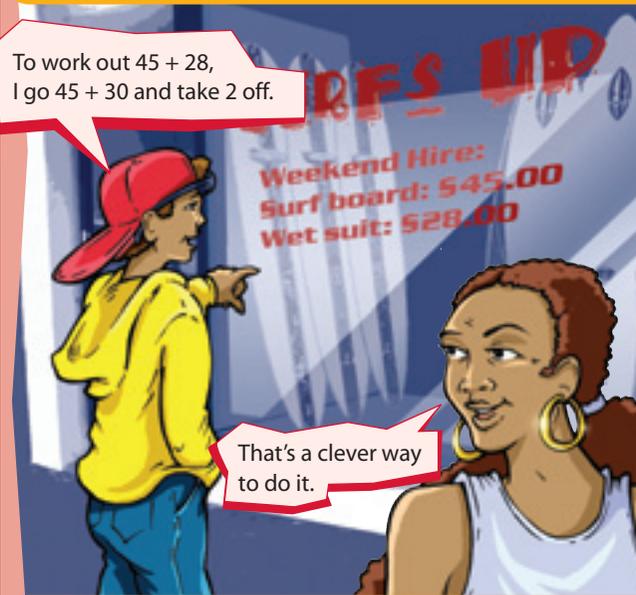


There is usually more than one way to solve a problem. If your child has a strategy that works, praise them. If yours is different, that's quite OK.

Take an interest in how your child figures things out.

To work out $45 + 28$, I go $45 + 30$ and take 2 off.

That's a clever way to do it.



Work together on problems around the home.

This recipe is for 4 people, but we will have 10 for tea. What should we do?

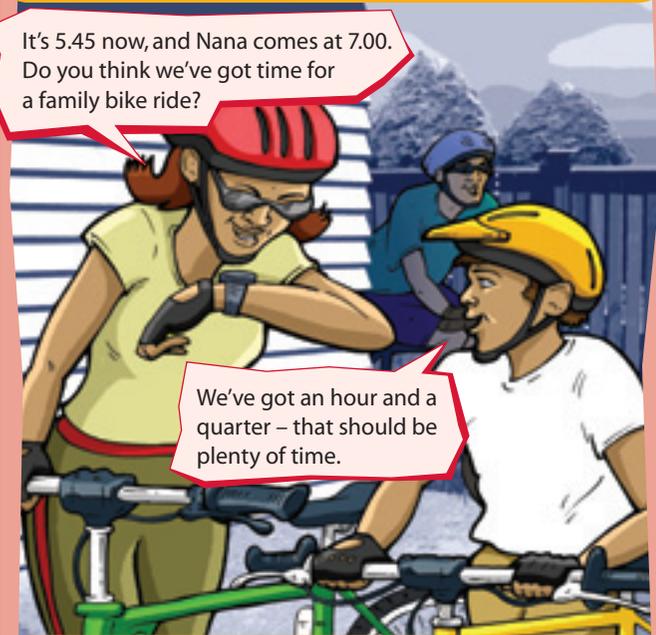
We'll have to make two and a half times as much.



Manage time together.

It's 5.45 now, and Nana comes at 7.00. Do you think we've got time for a family bike ride?

We've got an hour and a quarter – that should be plenty of time.



Help your child to manage money.

The CD is \$29.95. If you save some of your pocket money, how long will it take before you can buy it?

In 3 months, it will probably be selling at half price. So if I save \$5 a month, I can buy it then.

