

IMPROVING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

By Amanda Bishop

MATHEMATICS

● If your child has difficulty aligning figures in math computations, allow him/her to do his/her work on graph paper or turn the lined paper sideways to provide columns for lining up the numbers.

● When helping your child with word problems, help him/her to identify words or phrases which usually indicate a certain operation:

- Addition--"together," "altogether," "sum," "in all," "both," "gained," "received," "total," "won," "saved," etc.
- Subtraction--"difference," "between," "from," "left," "how many (more, less)," "how much (taller, heavier)," "withdrawal," "spend," "lost," "remain," "more," etc.
- Multiplication--"area," "each," "times," "product," "double," "triple," "twice," etc.
- Division--"into," "share," "each," "average," "monthly," "daily," "weekly," "yearly," "quotient," "half as many," etc.

● Mastery of math facts is important to help your child experience success in school. Start with the facts that he/she knows, and add a few new facts that he/she is unsure of. As one is mastered, take out an easy fact and add a new one. Keep the cards for periodic review.

● Figure out with your child how long you can do homework together before becoming frustrated. If that amount is 10 minutes, then plan to work on math in slightly less than 10 minute chunks before frustration sets in.

● Computer math games can be a fun way to memorize and understand math concepts.

● Use everyday experiences to practice skills learned in math:

- Set the table and count how many utensils you need
- Measure ingredients for a recipe
- Have an older child double the recipe
- Practice counting change for store purchases
- Have your child slice the pizza in halves, fourths, etc.

(Source: *Solve Your Child's School-Related Problems*. National Association of School Psychologists; Editors, M. Martin & C. Greenwood.)