

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) recognizes that families assumed new roles and responsibilities in the education of children due to the global pandemic and that much uncertainty and anxiety exist about the start of the upcoming school year. Below are a few recommendations to help ensure a high-quality mathematics education for your child.

Advocate for the needs of your child

- Acknowledge that good self-care—for yourself and for your child—is vital. Recognize that finding a balance between responsibilities can be a challenge, especially during a global pandemic.
- Communicate about and advocate for your needs, including those about access and use of technology, with your child’s teacher. Teachers are often aware of resources that can assist families.
- Build a partnership with your child’s teacher. Work together to identify goals and expectations.

Recognize that mathematics education likely looks different than when you were a student

- Listen to your student’s mathematical thinking rather than focusing immediately on the answer. Student understanding is deepened when they are able to explain rather than just calculate the correct answer.
- Recognize there is more than one way to solve a mathematical problem. Encourage students to use strategies that make sense to them rather than following arbitrary rules.
- Take advantage of opportunities to show where mathematics is used outside of school. Talk about where you see mathematics as you run errands as well as inside and outside your home.

Acknowledge that this time of remote mathematics education has created new challenges and opportunities for students, teachers, and families

- Don’t worry about the missing content from the spring. Your child’s teacher will work to weave that in throughout the year and will focus on the most important content.
- Recognize that to learn most effectively, your child will need breaks from the screen and technology.
- Be willing to share frustrations, concerns, and celebrations with your child’s teacher. This will help the teacher work toward meeting the needs of each and every student.

Resources

- [Figure This Family Corner](#)
- [Hunt Institute NCTM videos](#)
- [Families Ask](#)
- [It’s Elementary: A Parent’s Guide to K–5 Mathematics](#)
- [A Family’s Guide: Fostering Your Child’s Success in School Mathematics](#)
- [“Building Authentic Relationships with Parents”](#)
- [“Students, Families, Communities, and Mathematics Teachers”](#)
- [“Support for Parents and Families: Helping your Math Students”](#)



- ["Back to School: Time to Engage Parents and Families"](#)
- April 27, 2020, 100 Days Webinar: ["Engaging Families in Math Fact Fluency"](#)
Speaker: Jennifer Bay-Williams