

Using ST Math® at Home

Instructions for Accessing ST Math Outside of School

Dear Parents or Guardians:

With ST Math, students play computer games designed to teach math. They can play the games at home on devices with internet access. We encourage you to have your child play the games to review and practice the math skills learned in ST Math.

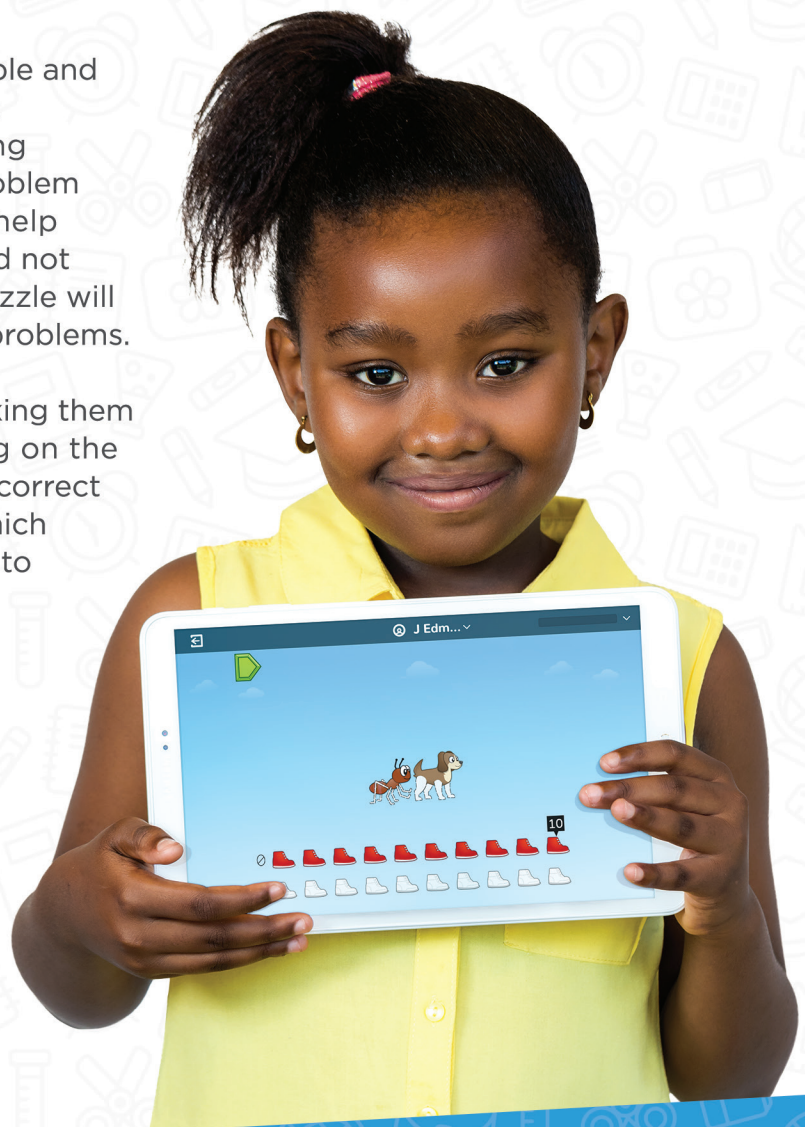
Your child's teacher may assign ST Math games for homework. Please make sure only the child with the ST Math account plays the games. Your child will access the program just as he or she does at school.

In ST Math, the game puzzles start off simple and then get more challenging as the student progresses. When they reach a challenging problem, your child should attempt the problem and use the visual feedback provided to help them figure out why their answer did or did not work. The feedback provided with each puzzle will help students figure out how to solve the problems.

If your child is struggling, help them by asking them questions about what they see happening on the screen. You should not give your child the correct answer to get them past the game with which they are struggling. The goal of ST Math is to promote problem solving.

Questions?

Please ask your child's classroom teacher.



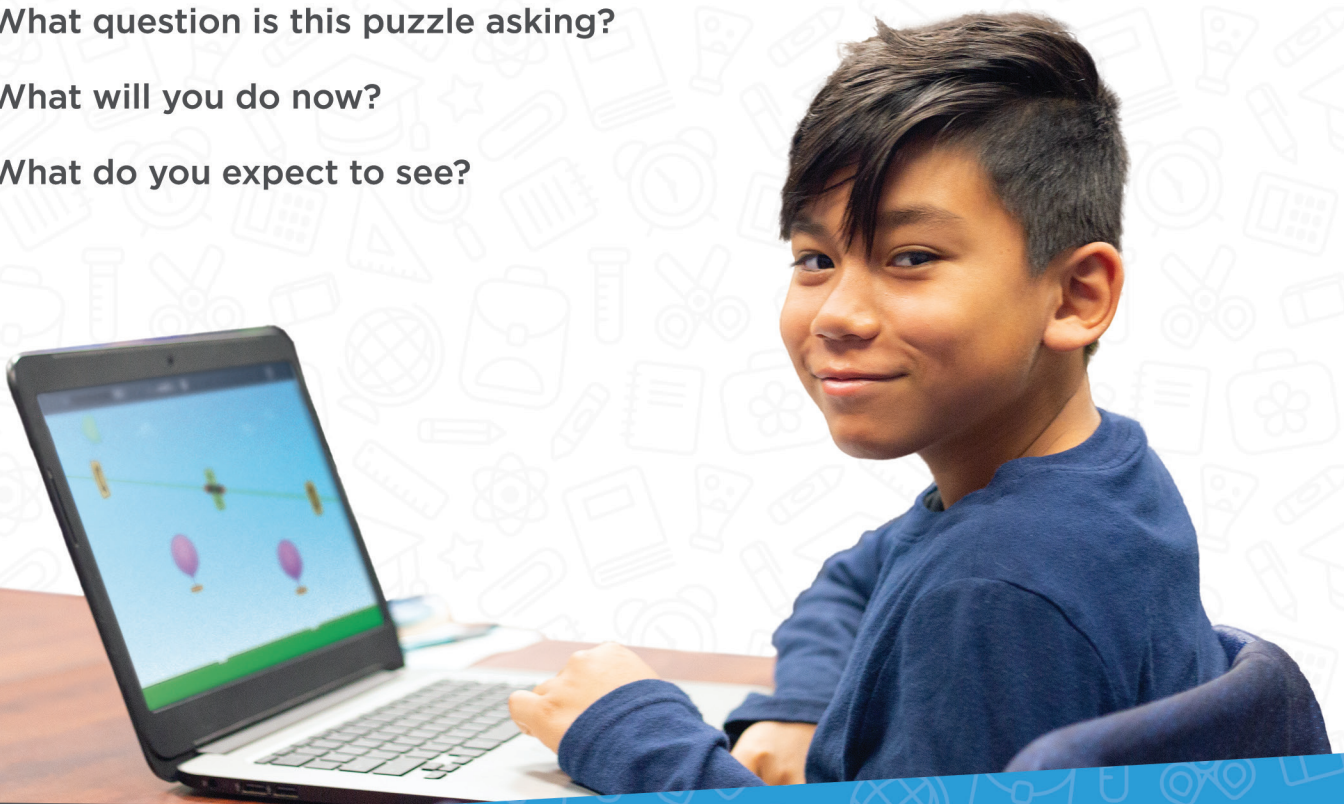
STMath
stmath.com

Facilitating Questions

In ST Math®, the puzzles start off simple and then get more challenging as the student progresses. When they reach a challenging problem, they may ask for your help.

To help them, ask questions like:

- What do you notice about the puzzle?
- What did you learn from the previous level that can help you here?
- What can you click?
- Describe what you see after you click. What did you learn?
- Describe the strategy that you are going to use.
- What can you do to get JiJi across the screen?
- What question is this puzzle asking?
- What will you do now?
- What do you expect to see?



Bring Math into Your Family Routine

Reading with your child is considered an integral part of a daily or nightly routine. **Shouldn't math be equally important?**

We don't mean doing worksheets of problems with your child. Instead, think about how you can incorporate mathematical conversation into daily activities like cooking, shopping, driving, or combine them with other activities like games, art and puzzles.

You can use ST Math to promote mathematical conversation with one of these ideas below:

- **Ask your child to select a level they have completed (it will be marked in green), and teach it to a family member.**
- **Build a summer math word wall with vocabulary words they use while explaining the games.**
- **Create word problems that go along with each puzzle.**
- **Write a math story based on the visual picture in a level.**

For more ideas on how to bring math into your family's routine, check out these resources:

- **K-12 Game-a-thon** - mindresearch.org/gameathon
Design a math game with your child and enter it in this national challenge!
- **Bedtime Math App** - bedtimemath.org/apps
Daily activities and problems to solve together.
- **Calculation Nation** - calculationnation.nctm.org
Interactive games for upper elementary and middle grades math curriculum with fractions, factors, multiples, and more.
- **The California Math Council** - cmc-math.org/about
Free math education articles and activities for students from pre-K through high school.
- **Figure This!** - figurethis.nctm.org
Math challenges for middle school students and families.
- **The Math Forum** - mathforum.org
"Ask Dr. Math", take on an internet math hunt, or compete in one of the many weekly and monthly math challenges based on grade level.
- **Illustrative Mathematics** - illustrativemathematics.org
Mathematical tasks that closely illustrate all of the Common Core Standards for each grade.

Homework Without Tears

12 Homework Tips for Parents

You don't have to dread helping your kids with math homework.

Homework helps students develop study skills, fosters independence and responsibility, increases students' understanding of content, teaches time management skills and builds positive academic self-image. Unfortunately homework can also cause unnecessary frustration, prevent students from participating in extracurricular activities and lead to poor self-esteem.

Luckily those negative aspects are preventable by making homework an important priority for your family and trying out these 12 helpful homework tips:

1 Limit Distractions

Create a homework zone for your child that is away from the television and other places where there could be distractions such as pets, people coming and going, and loud noises.

2 Provide Tools

Make sure the materials that your child may need are readily available. It's helpful to have a stash of pencils, pens, a dictionary, etc. available. Check in regularly and make sure that any special materials needed for class projects are provided so their work won't be disturbed.

3 Help Manage Time

Establish a set time for doing homework. Don't wait until just before bedtime to do homework when they are tired and easily distracted. Think about using a morning or afternoon on the weekend for working on big projects, especially if the project involves getting together with other classmates.

4 Be Positive

The attitude you express toward homework will be the same attitude your child acquires. Make it a habit to tell your child that the work they're doing is important.

5 Do YOUR Homework

Show that the skills they're learning are related to things you also do as an adult. If your child is reading, you could be reading too. If your child is practicing math, you could balance your checkbook.

6 Teach, Don't Tell

It's important that when asked for help you give guidance but not answers, that way your child learns the material and concepts. Remember that a lot can be learned from struggle and that too much help can teach your child that when the going gets rough, someone will do the work for them.

7 Cooperate

Teachers will often ask that you play a role in your child's homework. Make sure you're being an advocate for the teacher and follow their direction so you can show that school and home are a team.

8 Foster Independence

Some homework is really intended for students to do alone. Homework is a great way for children to develop independence and accountability for lifelong learning skills.

9 Communicate

Make sure you talk to your child's teacher and understand the purpose of homework and what the class rules are.

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Homework Without Tears

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10 Build Metacognitive Skills

Help your child decide what homework is hard and what is easy, then encourage them to work on the hard stuff first so they're most alert for challenging work.

11 Schedule Short Breaks

Watch your child for signs of failure and frustration. Let your child take a short break if they're having trouble keeping their mind on the assignment. Build perseverance but set time limits to avoid burnout.

12 Reward Progress and Effort

When your child has been successful and is working hard, celebrate success with a special event to reinforce positive effort.

How much time is really enough? These numbers are estimates, the actual time spent doing homework at night can vary with each child's motivation and interest level.

K-2
10-20 Minutes

3-6
30-60 Minutes

Middle/High School
60 Minutes
(Varies greatly based on class load)

Not all homework is equal! It's important to know what homework type your child's teacher has assigned and what their homework policy is. Here are four examples of homework you might see this year:

1 Practice Homework

Just like it sounds, this type of homework is designed to help your student learn and remember key concepts taught in the classroom.

2 Preparation Homework

This homework consists of material that hasn't been taught in the classroom just yet. These assignments are designed to introduce your child to the content that will help them acquire concepts taught later on in class.

3 Extension Homework

Students are asked to apply their skills to other content or a special project in this homework style that is usually assigned over a period of time.

4 Integration Homework

This homework is similar to extension, but often results in a class presentation or event like a science fair.