



CHAPTER 5

Talking leads to understanding

To support your child in understanding math, you will want to get him/her talking.

Ask questions

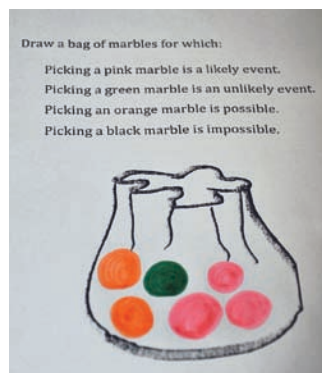
Asking your child questions is a great way for you to learn how he/she is thinking through the problem.

You may ask:

- ◆ What are you thinking?
- ◆ What strategy are you using?
- ◆ How do you know?
- ◆ What was the most challenging part of this task?

When your child is stumped, rather than telling him/her what to do, ask your child what he/she is thinking:

- ◆ What do you already know?
- ◆ What picture or model might help you solve the problem?
- ◆ What do you think you could do to get started?
- ◆ Does this remind you of a similar problem you have solved?



Let your child be the teacher

The best way to really understand something is to teach it to someone else. Let your child explain the math to you. While your child is talking, you can ask questions to show your genuine interest in understanding what he/she is teaching you and that you respect his/her way of thinking.

Focus on understanding

While math involves many procedures, it is important that your child develops an understanding of the mathematics first and then takes time to practice.

When you ask questions and encourage your child to talk about the math he/she is doing, your child will realize that you value his/her way of thinking. Your child will gain confidence in his/her ability to do math.