

Figure This!

Math Challenges for Families

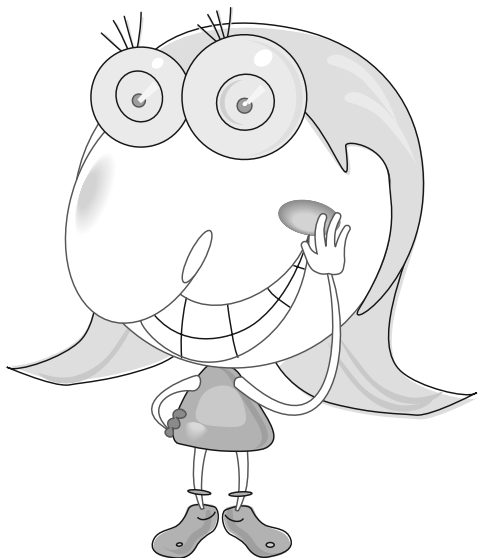
Tips for *Families*

Family involvement in mathematics education is an important part of student success. You can make a difference!

The Figure This! math initiative focuses on family involvement. Figure This! challenges are an easy and enjoyable way to get involved with your child's math education.

Each Figure This! challenge:

- Begins with an interesting problem.
- Provides hints, suggestions for getting started, answers, and a description of one or more ways to solve the problem.
- Suggests follow-up activities that include Try This, Additional Challenges, Things to Think About, and Did You Know That?
- Offers resources for related materials.



Here are some hints for working on the challenges with your child:

- Choose a challenge that you and your child both find interesting. Feel free to skip around among the challenges. Although the challenges are numbered, you can do them in any order.
- Read a challenge together and talk about what the challenge asks you to do.
- As a team figure out what you need besides paper and pencil to solve the challenge. For example, would a calculator or ruler help? Gather the materials before you start.
 - Listen to your child's ideas and share your own. Working on the challenges should be a team effort with you and your child working as equal partners.
 - Be positive about working through the challenge. Use the hints and other supporting information to help move you forward.



Some things you might consider:

- Select a challenge that reinforces the math topic your child is currently studying.
- Involve other members of your family.
- Choose a fixed time during the day or week for working on the challenges.
- Make working on a challenge a special time for the two of you.

There's no one right way to work with your child. For example, you and your child might work together on one or two challenges a week. You might choose to do a challenge one day and work on the accompanying activities on another day. Or you might choose to complete a challenge and some of the supporting activities all at one time.

Figure This! Doing math with your child can be fun. And you can make it happen!