



September 11, 2015

Dear Caregivers,

I am very excited to introduce myself as the Title 1 Math Teacher. I am looking forward to working with all students and having fun while providing each student with an interesting and challenging curriculum.

My job is to work along with the teachers *and parents* to provide extra math support. I will be working with small groups of students in grades 3-5. I will also be helping provide support materials to teachers and aides in grades K-2. Please contact me if you are in need of any math materials...flashcards, games or even new ideas on how to help at home.

Students who receive support will be determined by testing, class work and teacher discretion. My student caseload will change based on need. Students will come to my room and work on a specific skill for 10-15 min, so they are not missing important class time.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at the school at 810-392-2125 or email me at [kmuscat@memphisk12.org](mailto:kmuscat@memphisk12.org).

I am looking forward to a rewarding year.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Kristi Muscat

*Please visit my website to find numerous resources listed by grade level.*

**<http://mrsmuscat.weebly.com/>**

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If you wish for your child to **NOT receive** Title 1 math support, please sign and return this portion.









Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## MATH: HOW PARENTS CAN HELP AT HOME

Most parents, in their own schooling, experienced a mathematics curriculum that emphasized facts and procedures for computing. Today's mathematics curriculum maintains a more careful balance between developing conceptual understanding and computational fluency. In addition to knowing and applying basic mathematics skills, students are required to reason, think independently, solve problems using different strategies, and effectively communicate their solution methods. Parents help at home is essential in helping children develop and strengthen these skills.















Here are some suggestions for parents helping at home:

-  Let your children know you believe they can be successful in math.
-  Encourage and support risk taking and celebrate perseverance.
-  Encourage your children to solve problems with you. Help them identify different strategies to use in finding solutions and resist the temptation to provide one method. There is usually more than one way to solve a problem, and simpler often effective.
-  Provide opportunities for your children to explain and justify their thinking.
-  Connect mathematics to real life experiences. Emphasizing the mathematical aspects to make mathematics education relevant.
-  Be prepared for and supportive of different kinds of homework than what you experienced.
-  Ask good questions of your children about their homework and be good listeners when your children respond.
-  Encourage children to estimate answers before using the calculator and to check the reasonableness of their answers.







Parents can also support their children's mathematical development through access to many excellent pieces of children's literature with a math focus. Parents can be encouraged to ask their local public librarian to help them select appropriate books. As well, the school library can showcase appropriate books and encourage children to sign them out and take them home.

Good questions, and equally important, good listening can help children make sense of mathematics, build their confidence, and encourage mathematical thinking and communication. A good question opens up a problem and supports different ways of thinking about it. Some questions to try while helping a child might include:

-  What do you already know about this?
-  What do you need to find out?
-  How might you begin?
-  How can you organize your information?
-  Can you draw a picture to explain your thinking?
-  Are there other possibilities?
-  What would happen if ...?
-  What do you need to do next?
-  Can you describe the approach or strategy you are using to solve this?
-  Do you see any patterns?
-  Is your solution reasonable? Does it make sense?
-  How did you arrive at your answer?
-  Can you convince me that your solution makes sense?
-  What did you try that didn't work?



Parents should avoid stopping as soon as they hear the 'right' answer. Carefully worded responses, such as the following, give children a chance to clarify and extend their thinking:

-  What do you think of that?
-  Tell me more.
-  Can you explain it a different way?
-  Is there another possibility?