

PRACTICAL TEACHING HINTS FOR PARENT-TEACHERS

Routine is King!

- See our daily plan in each of the Early, Middle and Later Childhood Teaching Plans.
- Get creative with making a real school environment:
 - Have the kids wear a uniform/sports clothes to signify it is a school day.
 - Have a clock in view and let the children know what the routine will be.
 - If you have a bell, use it. If not set your phone alarm with a bell for break times.
 - At school children have their morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea sitting down.
 - They might even enjoy calling you Mrs, Ms, Sir, Ma'am, Mr!

Question Non-stop

- The rewarding part of teaching is watching children grow (intellectually and physically).

Q: How do they grow intellectually?

A: By solving their own problems – including those they are confronted with while learning.

Q: What do I then do as a teacher to facilitate growth?

A: Question your child. And then question some more. And when you are finished do more!
- Children get better at stuff they are willing (and interested) in practising.

Q: Willing to practise? How can I facilitate that?

A: Provide challenges, praise, reward and, most importantly, good old honest feedback/reflection.
- It's in every human's DNA to think their way through challenges. It's how we have survived for a very long time rather than ended up as a meal for a much bigger animal.
- Teachers have been described as “surgeons of the brain” and questions are our scalpels.

What Do Children Want (instinctively)?

- Food, clothing, shelter and love to start with. And we all do that well.
- They also want companionship. Someone genuinely interested in listening to them, to their interests and to their ideas.
- They are wired to enjoy the struggle to learn. You can't make it 'easy' for your child. They need to struggle and strive to understand. As someone wise once said, "It's in the struggle to break free that a butterfly learns to fly." This is both literally and figuratively true!
- Children want your constructive criticism. They learn from it as it helps them to reflect on their progress. They also want your praise and support as they struggle. AND, they definitely want you to be patient.

And, Remember...

- The influence of your teaching will NEVER be erased.
- And, most importantly, don't get too hung up in what to teach. Learning anything new is good.

Support – you are not alone!

- Contact your teachers.
- Email me at peter@k7maths.com