

Math Observations

When your child is working on math problems, you can observe as they work. The following questions can help focus your observations and interactions to provide insight into how your child thinks mathematically.

- Does your child have a way to solve problems, or does he expect you tell him exactly what to do?
- Can your child explain or tell what he is doing?
- Does your child notice mistakes?
- Does your child know there are different ways to solve problems? *“Is there a different way you could solve the problem?”*
- Does your child have a way to record her work, or does this seem difficult?
- Does your child use materials or tools to help them with the math work? Does she use the materials effectively?

If your child is not used to having you ask questions, it may take time for her to get used to the idea that you are interested in her thinking. *This is about learning how your child is thinking **not** about doing math the “right” way.* By showing sincere interest in your child’s ideas, your child will demonstrate his ideas more freely and improve his communication skills.

*Questions adapted from *Beyond Arithmetic Changing Mathematics in the Elementary Classroom* by Jan Mokros, Susan Jo Russell, Karen Economopoulos.