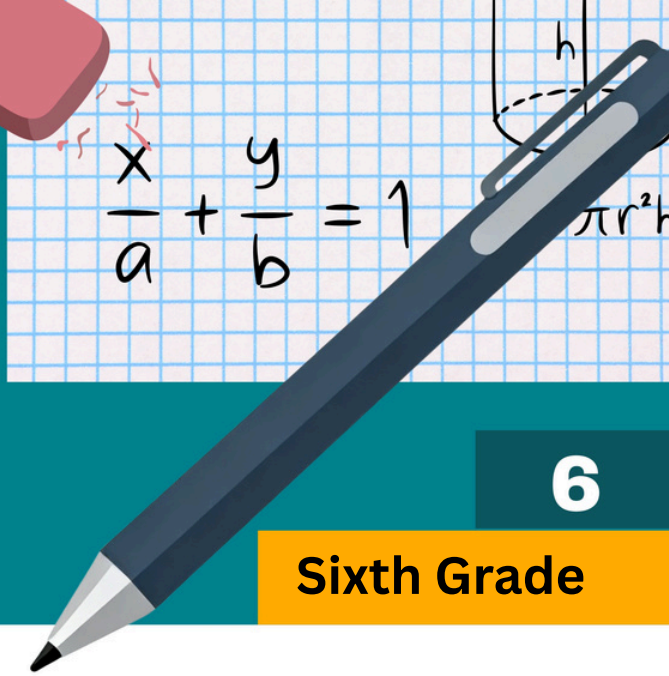
Mathematics For Families

You Are Your Child's First Teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Washington's academic standards and why they are important to your child. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



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Sixth Grade

In sixth grade, students explore real-life situations rather than memorizing steps or procedures. Sixth-graders start using ratios, equations, and data to understand and explain everyday scenarios. They learn how math connects to decisions they make, situations in their communities, and problems they encounter in the world. Students develop strong problem-solving skills, confidence in explaining their thinking, and a deeper understanding of how math works beyond the classroom.

Below is a snapshot of what your student will learn in math this year and how you can support them in school and at home.

What Sixth-Graders Learn and Do

Explain what numbers mean in situations involving ratios, rates, percentages, and basic statistics.

Write equations to show how numbers and measurements are related, including topics like area, volume, and surface area.

Understand how quantities in a problem are connected and use them to solve real-world problems involving ratios and rates.

Collect and analyze data to understand what it means. Learn how different averages (like the mean and median) affect how we interpret information and make conclusions.

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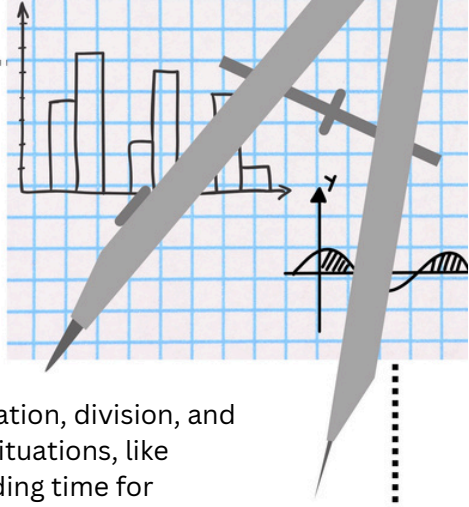
How to Support Your Sixth-Grader with Math



Do Math at Home

- Play strategy or chance-based games (cards, dice, spinners, or board games). Ask your student to describe possible outcomes before taking a turn.
- When your student makes a prediction or a decision, encourage them to explain their reasoning using words such as *likely, unlikely, possible,* or *impossible*.
- Encourage your student to show how they are thinking about a problem by drawing or making a model using diagrams, objects, or digital tools.
- Practice multiplication, division, and ratios in real-life situations, like sharing food, dividing time for activities, or scaling up a recipe.
- Ask your student to make predictions or estimates, such as how long a task will take, whether a sale price seems fair, or which option is the better deal, to build their confidence with reasoning and estimation.

Talk with Your Student

- Explain that mistakes are part of learning. Remind your student that revising their thinking is an important part of becoming a stronger problem solver.
- Invite your student to explain how they solve problems. Encourage them to ask questions when something is not clear or does not make sense.
- Reward and praise your student for figuring something out (problem solving), even when it does not relate to math.
- Support your student to talk with their teacher if they have questions about math or don't understand something in class. Help them plan out what they will say.
- Check in with your student while they do homework. Ask if they need any support. Encourage them to consider what resources they can use to help themselves.

Partner with the School

- Ask your student's teacher what students are learning in math. Share how it connects to your student's home life, community, culture, and future goals.
- Discuss collaboration with the teacher. Ask how students work with others to support learning.
- Help your student identify their strengths in math and areas where they feel confident. Share this information with the teacher.
- Ask the teacher how they encourage students to explain their thinking, make choices, and learn from mistakes in math class.
- Ask the teacher how students are using their math skills to understand and solve real-world problems.
- If you have questions, or if your student needs extra help or is new to learning English, talk to your student's teacher, multilingual learner specialist, or individualized education program (IEP) team (if applicable).

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