

## Numeracy **Fact sheet**

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# Supporting your child in Years 4 to 9



Numeracy is an essential skill that children need to succeed in their everyday lives. As a parent or carer, you will have already made a significant contribution to supporting your child's learning from an early age.

Now that your child has reached the middle phase of their education, they will be supported by their school to move from primary to secondary education.

It is critical for you to continue to play an active role in helping to develop your child's numeracy so they can achieve the best possible outcomes at school.

### Your vital role as a parent or carer

You might not realise it, but you are already contributing to the development of your child's numeracy skills through regular and simple activities such as talking about saving pocket money, having a budget for shopping and estimating the time it will take to travel from one place to another.

Improving your child's understanding and the use of these skills will help to increase their enthusiasm to actively participate in the classroom. It will effectively build on the foundation of numeracy skills they have already gained in earlier years.

Ensuring that your child feels confident talking to you and their teachers about their school work will enhance their opportunity to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### What numeracy skills will your child learn at school?

During Years 4 to 9, young people begin to investigate the world beyond home and school and are required to become more independent learners.

Students use mathematical skills and knowledge to solve real-world problems. They use a variety of strategies to add, subtract, multiply and divide whole numbers, fractions and percentages.

Your child will learn to measure area and volume, read clocks, timetables and calendars, geometrical language to describe features of two-dimensional (2D) and three-dimensional (3D) shapes and objects, and recognise angles.

Students interpret maps and describe the position of locations using simple coordinate systems, scales and compass directions. They can also use mathematics to analyse data to inform decision-making and make predictions.



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If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress please contact your child's teacher.

### Activities to do with your child

Here are some simple yet effective activities you can do with your child to help apply the numeracy skills they learn at school:



use numeracy decision-making opportunities in everyday life, such as a car trip — calculating how much fuel is required, estimating travel times and distance travelled/remaining, interpreting maps to calculate distances and the shortest route to take in planning a trip



when out shopping, estimate the final cost of discounted items, for example, the cost of an item with a 25 per cent discount



help your child plan and create a budget and discuss how to maintain it — you could focus on saving for a particular item that they would like to purchase



when choosing a family holiday destination, ask your child to analyse a brochure or advertisement for the destination — discuss the type of language used in the brochure and get your child to compare or calculate the cost of the holiday, including air, bus or rail fares, petrol, accommodation, food and entertainment to see if it fits within the family budget



play card and board games together.

For more information about how you can help your child with numeracy visit [www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map) or contact your child's teacher or school.