

Home Connections in Mathematics Nov. 2018



Focusing on the Fundamentals of Math

The Ministry of Education released teacher and parent guides in 2018 titled Focusing on the Fundamentals of Math, to support the teaching of the Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8. It explains how important it is for students to develop a strong understanding of number, apply their mathematical thinking during day to day activities and perform them with ease.



“What will be different?”

As outlined by the guide, this document is “intended to support teachers’ *ongoing* efforts in building students’ knowledge and skills in mathematics.” This has been TVDSB’s focus for some time.

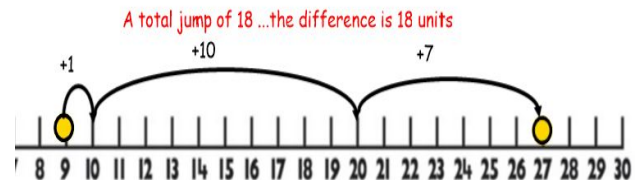
As many experts will recognize, it is important for children to learn and know their number facts. “Drill” may improve speed, but it does not help in building understanding of *how* to use numbers and operations in different situations. It is important for children to understand and develop strategies to help find an answer if they forget what they memorized.

Helping at home

Help your child use their math thinking and strategies in daily situations and activities, seeing that the math around them is fun and purposeful.

- Playing math games with cards or dice is great way to use numbers with children of all ages
- Include your child in everyday activities that involve numbers, operations and measurement
- Have your child show you how he or she solved a math problem and prove to you that they are correct
- Encourage your child to play online math games such as [Mathies](#), [ABCya](#), [Math Playground](#), [Knowledgehook](#) etc.
- Have your child solve problems in different ways and then compare the solutions

$$\begin{array}{r} 27 - 9 \\ - 7 - 2 \\ \hline 20 - 2 = 18 \end{array}$$



[Link to the Fundamentals of Mathematics Parent Guide](#)

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/parent_guide_math_en.pdf