MATH is MULTILINGUAL

ROXBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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MATH IS A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

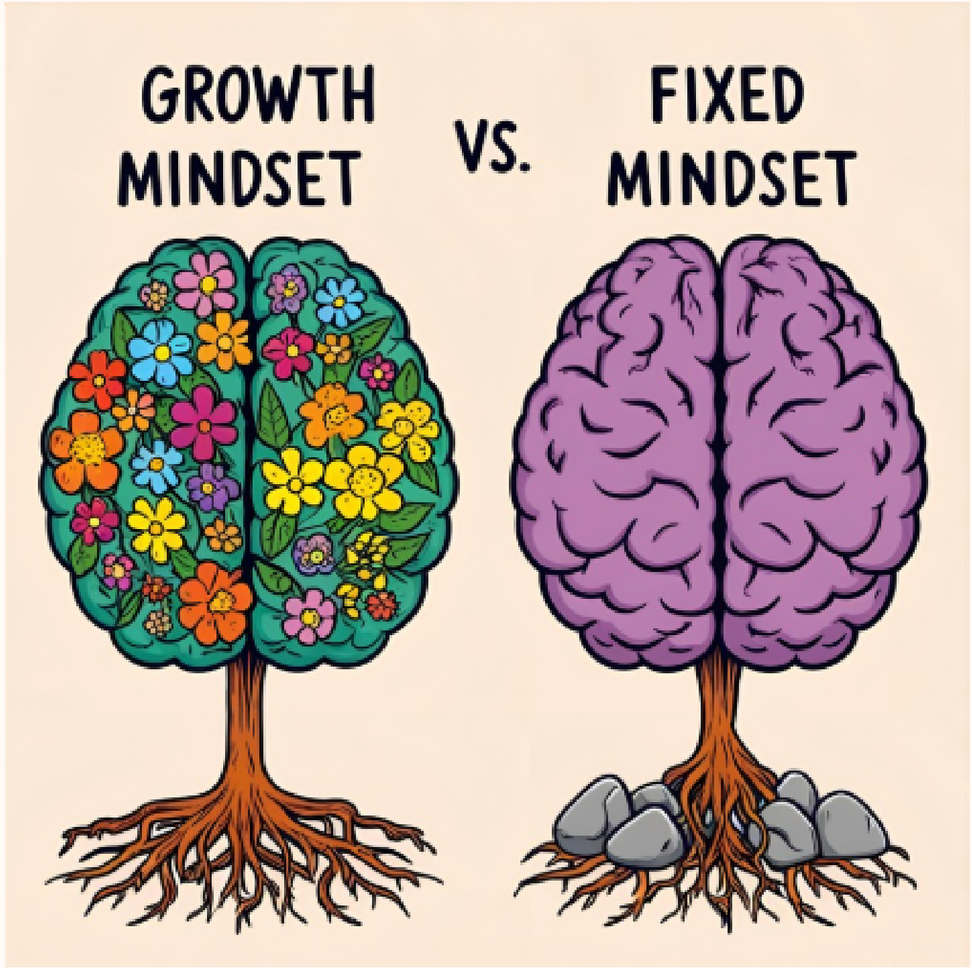
No matter what your home language is, we all use math in our daily lives. Your language and culture are not a barrier to learning math—they are an asset.

MATH SHOWS UP IN EVERYDAY LIFE

- cooking a meal
- measuring spices
- dividing food
- setting a timer
- shopping at a market
- comparing prices
- counting change
- calculating a sale
- knitting
- embroidery
- woodworking

When your child sees you doing these things, they're learning math in meaningful, real-world ways. When you talk about these moments, in any language, you are reinforcing important math thinking.

You are already doing math—and your language and culture are a strength.



Like any skill, math is something we grow with practice and support.

WHY MIGHT MY CHILD BE STRUGGLING WITH MATH?

- Your child may have strong math reasoning skills, but the language demands in the classroom can be a barrier.
- Word problems mix math, vocabulary, and reading comprehension together. They may have to navigate:
  - unfamiliar words or sentence structures
  - new vocabulary such as “altogether,” “difference,” or “fewer.”

MODEL PERSISTENCE AND PROBLEM SOLVING

Instead of saying...		Let's try saying...
I'm not good at math either.	→	Let's figure it out together.
Why are you solving the problem like that? That's not how I learned.	→	Can you teach me this strategy?

A growth mindset means believing that math ability grows with effort, not something you're just born with or without.

FAMILIES ARE NATURAL ROLE MODELS

Standards for Mathematical Practice (All Grades)

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

FAMILY MATH TALK TIPS

“Math Talk” doesn’t mean having formal math lessons at home. It simply means talking about math in your everyday life—asking questions, noticing patterns, thinking out loud, and inviting your child to explain their thinking.

FAMILY MATH TALK TIPS

- Math talk is about using language to build understanding.
- Math talk gives your child a chance to hear and use math language in both English and their home language, building confidence and deeper understanding.
- Remember: You don’t need to know the answer. The goal is to think together.

Situation	Try Saying...
Homework	“What strategy did you use?” “Can you explain it in another way?”
Real Life	“How many more do we need?” “What do you notice?”
When Stuck	“What part do you understand?” “Can you draw a picture of it?”
Everyday Use	“Which is a better deal?” “How many ways can we make 10?”

EVERYDAY PLACES FOR MATH TALK

In the Kitchen:

- How many halves make a whole?
- If we double the recipe, how much do we need?

At the Store:

- Which brand is cheaper per ounce?
- If we have $10, what can we buy?

EVERYDAY PLACES FOR MATH TALK

On a Walk:

- What shapes do you see?
- Let's count how many steps from here to the corner.

In the Car:

- How long do you think it will take to get there?
- We left home at 9:45am. It takes 35 minutes to get to the mall. About what time will we arrive?

The key is to show that math is part of everyday life—and that your child is capable of doing it.

WHAT IS NUMBER SENSE?

- Number sense is a child's ability to understand and play with numbers.
- Number sense includes skills like estimating, comparing, adding mentally, recognizing patterns, and breaking numbers apart in smart ways.
- Children with strong number sense are more confident problem solvers.
- Number sense grows through hands-on, real-life experiences.

EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES THAT BUILD NUMBER SENSE

Daily Task	Math Thinking Prompt
Setting the table	“How many forks do we need if we have 5 people?”
Folding laundry	“Can we sort by size or match socks by pattern?”
Grocery shopping	“If apples are $2 per pound, how much for 3 pounds?”
Cooking/baking	“The recipe is for 4. We are 6—how do we change it?”
Walking to school	“How many steps from here to the corner?”
Cleaning up toys	“Can we group these into 5s or 10s to count faster?”

GAMES THAT BUILD NUMBER SENSE

You don’t need to buy anything fancy. Many games and materials you likely already have at home build number sense!

Games are a fun, low-pressure way to build fluency, flexibility, and joyful math habits.

GAMES THAT BUILD NUMBER SENSE

- **Card games:** Go Fish for 10, Don’t Get Busted, Multiplication War, and more!
- **Dice games:** Roll and compare, Race to 100, Target Number, and more!
- **Board games:** Monopoly, Chutes & Ladders (number order), Yahtzee (strategy and totals)
- **Mental math games in the car:** “I’m thinking of a number between 30 and 50. It’s a multiple of 5.”

THANKS for COMING!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT ME AT:

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