

We are pleased to share exciting news about the future of elementary mathematics learning in New Brunswick. Beginning fall, all schools in the Anglophone sector will implement **the New Brunswick K–5 Holistic Mathematics Curriculum**. This curriculum sets clear learning expectations for elementary mathematics and is designed to ensure that all learners develop a strong foundation in mathematics and can apply mathematical thinking to solve problems with confidence. This initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to enhancing numeracy outcomes for learners across New Brunswick's Anglophone schools.

Role of Families:

Parents, as children's first teachers, play a vital role in shaping both their mathematical learning and their sense of themselves as capable math learners. Research shows that children make greater progress when families and schools work together to support mathematical thinking. By fostering strong partnerships between home and school, we can empower both families and educators to nurture children's growth and help every learner reach their full potential.

Overview:

Developed by a team of educational leaders and teachers from across New Brunswick, in collaboration with Canada's leading researchers and mathematics experts, the New Brunswick K–5 Holistic Mathematics Curriculum is grounded in the most current evidence on how children develop foundational math skills. It is a streamlined, research-informed framework designed to provide all learners with a strong foundation in numeracy and reflects our commitment to holding every child in the highest regard. We remain committed to working closely with educators to ensure our mathematics curriculum continues to meet the needs of learners and is implemented with care and fidelity.

Alignment with the New Brunswick Holistic Curriculum Framework:

The vision and shared tenets of the NB [Holistic Curriculum Framework](#) guides how teachers support the growth and development of learners in mathematics:

- Holding each learner in the highest regard: the potential of each learner is valued and their unique strengths emphasized to enhance learning.
- Learner agency: empowering students to take ownership of their learning, make choices, and develop as independent thinkers who are confidently able to apply mathematics to solve problems.
- Positive math identity: ensuring every learner sees themselves as capable and successful in mathematics.
- Experiential learning: helping learners reason and make sense of mathematical ideas through exploration, perseverance, resilience-building and reflection.
- Relevant learning: showing how math is used in everyday situations and across all learning areas, and encouraging learners to use math to analyze situations, make decisions and solve problems in creative and practical ways.
- Equity, inclusion and cultural diversity: ensuring that all learners see their identities, experiences, and ways of knowing reflected and valued in mathematics.

Focus of Learning in the Primary and Elementary Blocks:

In the primary block ([K-2](#)), experiences are designed to nurture curiosity, build confidence and help foster a positive disposition for mathematics. In the primary years, the emphasis is on building deep, connected understandings of mathematical ideas such as counting, comparing quantities, recognizing patterns and investigating number relationships. Abstract concepts become visible when learners engage in hands-on learning opportunities and have access to a variety of concrete manipulatives. As they ask questions, make predictions and explain their thinking, learners strengthen their reasoning and problem-solving skills. Talking with peers and

using precise mathematical language further supports learners in making sense of their ideas and deepening their understanding. Collectively, these experiences ensure that mathematics is seen as meaningful, connected and relevant to everyday life.

In the elementary block (3-5), mathematics learning extends and integrates early numeracy concepts. Instruction should be designed with the learner at the centre and provide rich and relevant opportunities to experience mathematics through direct instruction, inquiry and experiential learning. Having high expectations for all, holding each learner in the highest regard and creating safe learning spaces that support productive struggle are vital components that foster positive dispositions and develop confident, capable mathematicians. Mathematics classrooms that use manipulatives and tools invite all learners to develop deep conceptual understanding. Learners make sense of the math and refine their own ideas by sharing their thinking with peers and using precise mathematical language. Encouraging learners to ask questions, make predictions and explain their thinking develops reasoning and problem-solving skills and activates them as learning resources for one another.

How Can You Help:

Parents can have a huge positive impact on their child's math learning at home by making math meaningful, accessible, and enjoyable. Here are some practical ways:

- Point out math in daily life: measuring ingredients while cooking, counting money, reading clocks, or comparing distances.
- Talk about patterns, shapes, and numbers in the environment (street signs, packaging, sports statistics).
- Encourage Problem-Solving and Reasoning by asking open-ended questions: "How could we figure this out?" or "Why do you think that happens?"
- Let children try different strategies rather than just giving answers.
- Praise effort, persistence, and strategies, not just correct answers.
- Model positive attitudes about math: avoid saying "I'm not good at math" and instead show curiosity and learning alongside your child.
- Play board games, card games, or puzzles that involve counting, strategy, or logic.
- Encourage building or drawing activities that explore shapes, symmetry, and spatial reasoning.
- Use storybooks with math themes to spark discussion.
- Encourage your child to explain how they solved a problem, reinforcing their mathematical thinking.
- Offer guidance and encouragement rather than doing tasks for them.
- Ask questions that help them reflect on their approach and reasoning.
- Recognize progress, small achievements, and creative solutions to reinforce confidence and identity as a capable math learner.

Our shared goal is to help every child thrive in mathematics by developing understanding, problem-solving skills, and confidence. We are grateful for the ongoing partnership of parents and families, whose support, encouragement, and engagement play a vital role in nurturing children's mathematical growth. Together, we can ensure that all learners see themselves as capable, confident, and successful in their math journey.