**Math Tips and Strategies to Support Your Student**

**Strategies**

Here are some actions you can take when your student expresses frustration:

• Review the directions together.

• Keep a positive attitude while validating and acknowledging struggle.

• Apply the 20 minute rule. If your student truly seems stuck after 20 minutes, encourage him or her to take a break. As your student takes time to regroup, determine the next steps to effectively assist your student which may include contacting the teacher.

• Present yourself as an ally and that you are available to support them on their learning path.

• Resist the urge to do the work for your student.

• Ask prompting questions.

**Prompting Questions**

Sometimes helping your students can be as easy as asking a question that redirects their attention if they get stuck. To get students ready to solve a problem, you can ask any of the following questions:

• What are you being asked to determine?

• Can you describe the problem in your own words?

• How will you know if your answer is right?

• Will it help to make a diagram?

• Where do you think we should begin?

• What do you think we should do next?

• What do you know about the problem already?

• Does your answer make sense?

**Tips for Using Prompting Questions**

With any new approach, it does take time to develop a habit. Remember these tips as you practice applying your new prompting questions skills:

• Support your student through the struggle. It can be tempting to jump in at the first sign of struggle and show your students how to complete the math problem. Provide time to try and try again, with a little guidance from you.

• Embrace the problem solving process. Anxiety can be contagious. Be mindful not to share your resistance to the subject and embrace the entire problem solving process. Sometimes it can take students a longer amount of time to complete a problem, and that’s okay as long as your students are eventually able to get to the right answer.