

How to Develop MATHS SKILLS

Here's how pupils can develop essential maths skills effectively.

By EPH Editorial Team

It is not unusual for pupils to find maths difficult, as maths concepts often involve abstract ideas and symbols that can be tricky to digest. To master these concepts, pupils need to develop relevant maths skills through a good balance of understanding, practice, and application. Here are some recommendations on how to do so.

Master the Basics

Maths often builds on prior knowledge. The basics are the building blocks for more advanced concepts. If pupils have difficulties understanding the basics, it can be challenging for them to take on more advanced concepts. Instead of jumping ahead, a step-by-step approach from the basics helps pupils develop essential maths skills at every learning stage for a more holistic learning experience.

Understand the Concepts

Memorising maths formulae without understanding the logic behind them results in surface learning. To

effectively develop maths skills, pupils should understand the 'why' behind the concepts, not just the 'how'. This will enhance their comprehension and make it easier to develop other related or more advanced maths skills.

Relate to Real Life

We can make maths more relevant and engaging for pupils by relating it to real-life situations. For example, we can relate geometry to design or ratio to cooking. Such an approach helps pupils appreciate the relevance of maths in daily life and can motivate them to develop related maths skills based on their interests and hobbies through self-directed learning.

Join Study Groups

Study groups provide a stimulating learning environment to hone maths skills. In a study group, pupils can work on higher-level questions together and explain their thought processes to derive the answers. This not only helps to reinforce understanding but also allows pupils to pick up different

answering techniques and approaches to problem solving from their peers. Studying together can also make learning more enjoyable.

Practise Regularly

A simple yet effective way to develop maths skills is consistent practice. Pupils should attempt a variety of practice questions regularly to apply their knowledge, train their problem-solving skills, and reinforce their understanding. Besides textbooks, pupils can also tap on guidebooks that provide explanations, examples, and exercises.

Maths Modular Exercises (\$16.90 each) by Educational Publishing House Pte Ltd is a series of complete companions to Primary Maths courses written in accordance with the latest Ministry of Education syllabus. Each book in the series consists of notes, worked examples, drilling questions, multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, structured or long-answer questions, and revision papers.

