



Talking positively about Maths Information for parents and carers

It's important to be positive about Maths around children. The way we talk about Maths makes a big difference to how they see it. Saying things like "I can't do maths" or "I hated maths at school" might make your child start to think like that too. And sometimes we say things that give the wrong idea without realising.

Sometime we
say...

I was never any
good at maths
at school either

I can't do maths
and I get on just
fine.

It's ok, you're
more of a creative
person than a
maths person.

This is easy, you
should be able
to get this one.



What our child
may hear...

Only some people
are good at maths
and I'm not that sort
of person, so there's
no point trying
to get better at it.

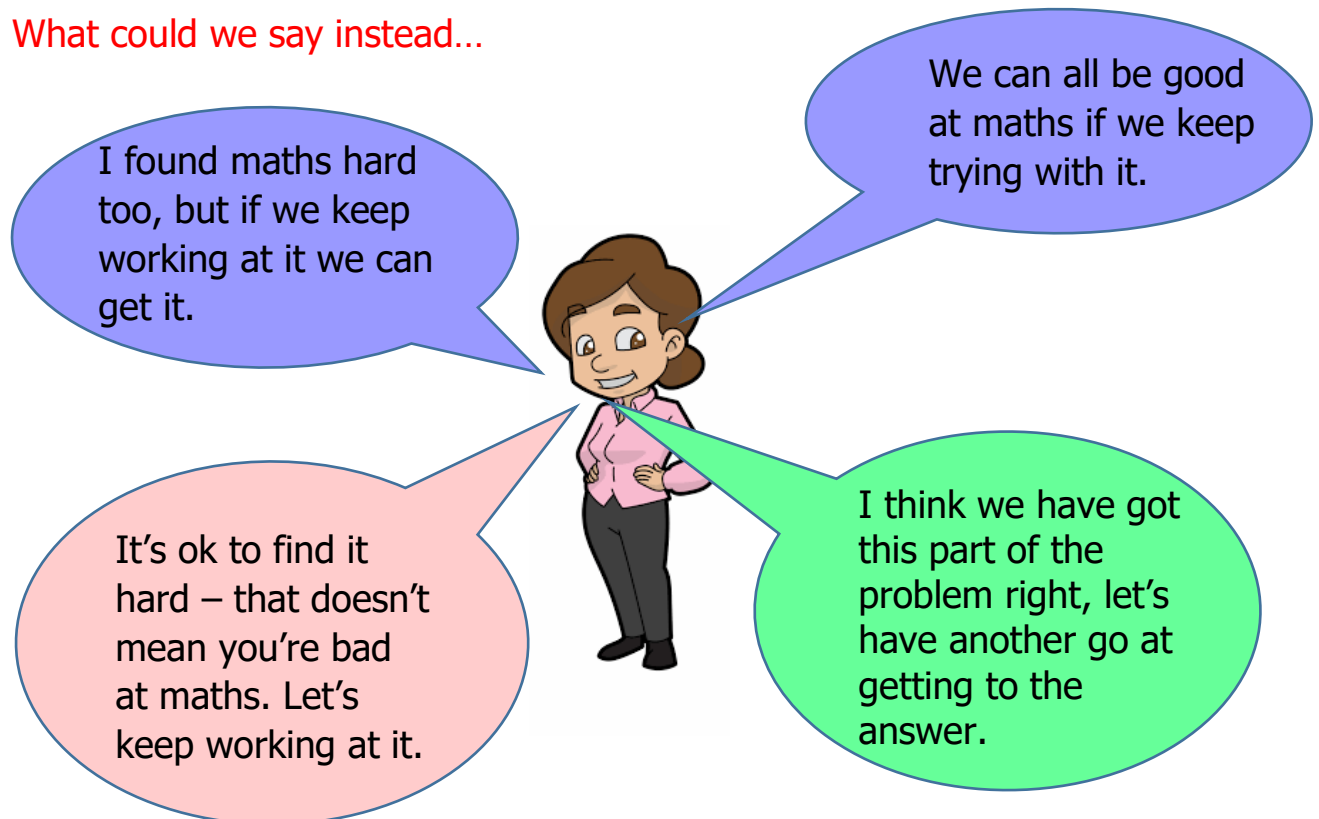
Maths isn't important and
you can get by without it.
It's just a school subject
and it won't be useful in
real life.



If I find this difficult, I must be useless at maths.

When children hear these beliefs it may lead to children not engaging with maths at all. It can make children believe that their ability is fixed and that skills cannot be learnt. It doesn't encourage them to keep trying. Putting pressure on children to get things right first time can make them worry about maths and get scared by it. It's good for children to know that making a mistake is not a bad thing. Mistakes can help us learn.

What could we say instead...



Whatever our own feelings about maths, being positive about maths can make a real difference to children's progress.