# LELPING WITH MATH

### If a student is stuck on a problem...

- What have you done in class that could help you solve this?
- Do you have any notes or references that you can use?
- What do you think your first step should be?
  - What is the problem asking you to do?
  - What does this problem remind you of?
  - What do you want to try first?
  - What would you do if the numbers were smaller?
  - Let me read the problem and you retell it in your own words.

If a student wants you to check their work...

If the Answer is Correct:

- Can you show me another way to solve this?
- How can we double check your answer?
- Does your answer make sense?

#### If the Answer is **Not** Correct:

- Talk me through the steps that you took to get your answer.
- Explain to me how you got your answer.
- Does this make sense?
- How can we check this?

\*The purpose of asking the above questions is to get the students to reflect on their work and hopefully realize their own mistakes.

\*If the students still don't catch their mistakes, point out a specific section for the student to double check.

\*If they are still stuck, say "Let's work on this together." The students must be involved in the corrections. <u>Do not</u> take their pencils and make the corrections. Work it out together on a marker board and then have them copy the collaborative work on their paper.

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## If your child is stuck on a problem...

- What have you done in class that could help you solve this?
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- What do you think your first step should be?
  - What is the problem asking you to do?
  - What does this problem remind you of?
  - What do you want to try first?
  - What would you do if the numbers were smaller?
  - Let me read the problem and you retell it in your own words.

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- How can we check this?

\*The purpose of asking the above questions is to get your child to reflect on his/her work and hopefully realize his/her own mistakes.

\*If your child still doesn't catch his/her mistakes, point out a specific section for him/her to double check.

\*If he/she is still stuck, say "Let's work on this together." The child must be involved in the corrections. **Do not** take his/her pencil and make the corrections. Work it out together on a marker board/piece of paper and then have your child copy the collaborative work on his/her paper.

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Thanks! Jennifer Findley

