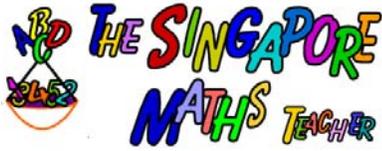


## Math in Focus Supports for Students / Parents / Teachers

Parents/teachers have asked for websites and resources they can use to help children/students become stronger mathematical problem-solvers. The first website provide step-by-step problem-solving strategies and practice questions. It is a good resource for parents, teachers, AND students. The second site is for parents and teachers. Neither site requires experience with Math-in-Focus. The first six are free – the fifth is a commercial product.



**The Singapore Maths Teacher** is a website that illustrates problem-solving strategies using animation and written explanation. The site is for teachers, parents, and students in **grades 3 through 6**. To find the right set of problems, Primary 3 refers to Grade 3, Primary 4 refers to Grade 4, etc. One set of slides teaches students how to problem-solve using Bar Models, a strategy that lies at the heart of Math in Focus. A second set shows students how to problem-solve using strategies like “draw a picture”, “look for a pattern”, “guess and check”, “make a list”, “logical reasoning”, and “work backwards”. There is also an enrichment section for advanced students. <http://www.thesingaporemaths.com/framedef.htm>.

### INTRODUCTION TO SINGAPORE MATH

**Introduction to Singapore Math** is a four-page PDF that summarizes useful problem-solving strategies for **grades 1 through 5**. The first page describes the simple early mathematical skills of counting-on, counting-back, and crossing-out, all of which help students understand mathematical principles. The second page describes Model drawing, a problem-solving strategy that uses visuals to represent the information in word problems. The use of models also trains students to solve addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division problems, as well as word problems related to fractions, decimals, percentages, and ratios. The final two pages describe skills and strategies – like visualization, looking for patterns, working backward, etc. – that are important in mathematical thinking and problem solving. [http://www.carsondellosa.com/cd2/images/Singapore/Singapore\\_Math\\_Intro.pdf](http://www.carsondellosa.com/cd2/images/Singapore/Singapore_Math_Intro.pdf)



**Thinking Blocks** is a suite of learning tools designed to help students in grades 1-6 solve math word problems accurately and efficiently. Using brightly colored blocks, students model mathematical relationships and identify known and unknown quantities. The model provides students with a powerful image that simplifies the problem-solving process. When students use models to solve increasingly complex word problems, they develop strong reasoning skills. This website <http://www.thinkingblocks.com/> does a nice job illustrating the steps of Model Drawing, a core instructional practice of Math-in-Focus.

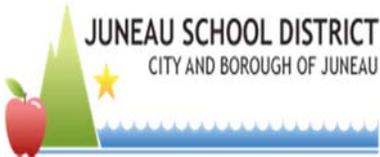


**Math Playground** is a popular learning site for kids of all ages filled with math and thinking games, step-by-step instructional videos, math practice, and problem-solving activities. A favorite of parents and teachers, Math Playground provides a safe place for kids to learn and explore math concepts online. Here is a link to their home page <http://www.mathplayground.com/> and games <http://www.mathplayground.com/games.html>.



**PBS Parents** provides useful information on a number of math topics for K-2 parents, including “Simple Tips for Summer Math Learning”, “Instill a Love of Math”, and “What’s Singapore Math?”

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/math/math-tips-for-parents/whats-singapore-math/>



Here is a link to the Juneau Alaska School District which has posted a number of useful Math in Focus/math resources for students and parents:

[www.jsdmathisfun.blogspot.com](http://www.jsdmathisfun.blogspot.com).

#### **MATH BUDDIES FOR STUDENTS**



**Math Buddies** is an online digital curriculum designed to support learning mathematics using the Math-in-Focus: Singapore math approach. It follows the same pedagogical principles as Math-in-Focus, combining multimedia technology with instructional strategies to offer an engaging teaching and learning experience. This digital curriculum is available to parents as an annual

subscription for \$99 per grade. Students do NOT need this support to be successful, but the district is providing this information as a courtesy. Here is a link to an informational brochure

<http://www.mconline.us/LEAD/Login/content/downloads/mathbuddies.pdf> as well as a link to purchasing the subscription <http://www.mconline.us/LEAD/Login/content/pricing.aspx>.