A Parent's Guide to the Standards for Mathematical Practice

As your child works through homework exercises, you can help him/her develop and apply the eight Mathematical Practices by asking some of these questions:

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

- What problem are you asked to solve?
- Have you solved similar problems?
- What is your plan for solving the problem?
- Did you use a different method to check your answer?

2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

- Can you think of a number sentence (equation) to match the story (situation)?
- What do the numbers in the number sentence mean?
- How are the facts in the problem related to one another?

3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

- What does your answer mean?
- How can you be sure that your answer is correct?

4. Model with mathematics.

- What number sentence (equation) describes this problem?
- What numbers will you use to solve the problem?
- How are the numbers in the problem connected?
- Is your answer reasonable?
- What does your solution represent?

5. Use appropriate tools strategically.

- What tools can help you solve this problem?
- Which tool is the most useful for this problem? Why is that your choice?
- Did you begin by estimating the solution?

6. Attend to precision.

- What do the symbols that you used mean?
- What units of measure are you using?
- Explain what [term from the lesson] means.

7. Look for and make use of structure.

What do you notice about the solutions you've just completed?

8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Are there shortcuts for solving similar problems?