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| Just imagine that…  your child was playing on a climbing frame and was trying to use the monkey bars. Imagine that they were finding it hard.  Would you say:  ‘Never mind, some people just can’t use monkey bars, they are very hard!’  Or  ‘You can nearly do it, that’s it, stretch a little bit more … keep going! Well done for keeping trying, you got to the first bar. If you keep working like that, I bet you will get to the second bar soon’. | |  | We want you to think about this because... |
| a lot of adults had difficult experiences with maths at school and, as a result, believe that they are not very good at it. They believe that some people have ‘maths brains’ and are able to think in a mathematical way and that some others cannot.  However, evidence suggest that everyone can learn maths; yes, *everyone!* If your child gets stuck, encourage them to try to work it out for themselves, just as you would encourage them on the monkey bars. The more you encourage and help them, the more confident they will become that they can work it out for themselves. | |
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|  | How you can help at home | * Be positive about mathematics. You use mathematics every day to do lots of different activities such as getting to school on time and running your household. Mathematics is essential to everyday life. Never say that you (or anyone else) is no good at maths! * Encourage your child to keep trying and tell them all of the things that they did well even if they get the wrong answer. | |
| * Understand that sometimes everyone finds maths difficult and that this is normal. * Understand that getting stuck is not a sign that you are not very good at maths but is an important part of the learning process. As you get unstuck, you learn new skills and your brain literally grows! | |