

Carry the One Event Outline

Helping Parents in Your Community As Math Homework Helpers

The framework below outlines a 75 minutes session designed to help parents feel supported and empowered as at-home math helpers. This session does NOT teach parents math. Rather, it focuses on giving them the tools they need to foster productive struggle, to lean in when kids are stuck (but avoid swooping in with a “better” way), and to stay the course even if the math or the strategies kids are using look unfamiliar.

SESSION SET UP	
<u>Recommended Length</u>	~75 minutes
<u>Possible Facilitators</u>	Two facilitators is ideal, so they can role play, but you can get by with one if need be. Folks to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Org Leadership • Math Teacher • Local District Math Lead
<u>Materials & Set-Up</u>	<p>Nothing fancy needed here. Just make sure each attendee has 5-6 blank pieces of paper and a pencil. Ideally, you’ll want a presentation up on the screen (see sample presentation here). If you’re in person, try to snag a document camera or projector from a classroom, so that the presenter can do problems live.</p> <p>Math is stressful for parents so anything you can do to set a relaxed tone is helpful as well. If you’re in person, we like to have music playing as parents arrive. Snacks always help! If the session is virtual, it’s good to start with casual conversation as a warm-up to help people get to know each other a bit and put them at ease.</p>

SESSION FORMAT

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<p><u>Welcome & Introductions</u> <i>5 minutes</i></p>	<p>Here's a moment to set the tone. Avoid fancy bios and focus instead on relatable introductions. If your facilitators are parents, definitely have them share about their own math experience.</p>
<p><u>Setting Context: Math's Bad Rap</u> <i>5 minutes</i></p>	<p>Recognize how challenging the shifts in math instruction have been for parents, and how poorly much of this has been communicated.</p> <p><u>Sample talking points:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social media have been flooded with confusing math assignments and memes about math homework. A lot of these assignments are genuinely crazy!• But “new math” and Common Core aren’t bad things — they just have a bad PR agency.• Common Core-aligned math standards are designed to help kids think critically, make great arguments, explain their thinking, and develop other crucial skills for both great jobs and happy lives.• Whatever your POV on this, we all have a stake in making math homework a less painful experience. That will be our goal tonight.
<p><u>Your Role as Parents</u> <i>7 minutes</i></p>	<p>Here you get to give parents the exciting news that they’re not responsible for teaching math. You’ll want to explain that this is the teacher’s job -- but that parents also have a very helpful role to play. If you have parents of all age groups, walk through each of the roles below. If you have just one, focus on that group. See Carry the One Resource Guide for additional details on each group.</p> <p>You’ll also want to emphasize the purpose of homework, which is not to ruin people’s home lives, but give teachers a window into whether kids are grasping content.</p> <p><u>Sample talking points</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your Role in Elementary School<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ In elementary school you are your child’s coach. You decide when and where practice (aka homework) happens, plan the week ahead, cheer them on, etc.• Your Role in Middle School (2 minutes)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In middle school, you're promoted to manager. You hold kids accountable, give support when needed, and keep their eye on the big picture. ● Your Role in High School (2 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High school parents are advisors. You're not helping every day, but you make crystal clear that you are there when needed. Make sure your child knows you are here to help, they just need to ask.
<p><u>The Six Phrases</u> 5 minutes</p>	<p>Talk parents through the six phrases they should use with kids to avoid the temptation to swoop in and teach them to carry the one/ cross multiply/ etc. These phrases are also great because they don't depend on parents actually knowing how to do the math.</p> <p>For this, we like to have our presenters role play. If in person, have one solving a problem on the document camera, while the other plays a parent guiding them through the work. If virtual, do the same, with one person solving on their screen and the other unmuted to interact with the first presenter.</p>
<p><u>Let's Practice</u> 30 minutes</p>	<p>Finally, time for math! We usually get through 4 or 5 problems total.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Start with the easiest problem. Make sure it's <i>really</i> easy (we like problem #1 in the resource guide, even if you have MS or HS parents). Starting with an easy one relaxes parents, and lets them try out the new skill (applying the six phrases) within their comfort zone, before things get trickier. ● Put the problem up on the screen, then give parents a minute or two to work through it themselves, as if they were the student. ● Next, if you're in person, have parents pair up, and role-play the student/ parent conversation. The person in the parent role should help guide the "student," using the six prompts as a guide. Presenters should walk around and offer feedback, make observations, etc. If virtual, you can model with two parents for the whole group. ● Repeat for the remaining four problems. Partners should switch off which role they play with each problem.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some parents might get stuck on some of the harder ones — that's okay! Remind them that their kids may get stuck as well, and the best course of action is to use the six prompts and make a note of where the child is getting stuck to let the teacher know.• After parents have had time to work through the problems, share several different strategies for solving each one, emphasizing that all strategies are valid and there are MANY. The point is to keep kids curious and interested, not to funnel them all to one approach.
<p><u>Recap + Reflections</u> <i>10 minutes</i></p>	<p>Here's your moment to celebrate parents for their commitment, and to set them up to make positive change. We give parents a minute to reflect on their current homework routine and plan for one change they'll make in the days ahead. Don't skip this! Parents typically share very moving reflections here, and benefit hugely from each others' commitments. Make sure they get the opportunity to share. If virtual, you can have parents chat in their thoughts, and call on those who'd like to share out loud one by one to elaborate.</p> <p>Take any questions, making sure to give folks the opportunity to head out if they need to.</p> <p>THANK parents, send them on their way, post about your great work and make sure to tag us!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Instagram: @RobertsonCenter Twitter: @RobertsonCtrSA LinkedIn: The Robertson Center at Success Academy #CarrytheOne</p>

Need a consult? Reach out to: RobertsonCenter@successacademies.org