

The Struggle of Math

A Mom Takes Steps to Improve her Math Skills

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BEFORE YOU READ: What is boot camp?

It all started when my children would come and ask me for help with math homework, and I could not help them because I didn't understand it myself. I was so frustrated, I decided it was time to go back to school.



the test day came, I was nervous that I was not going to pass. My teacher graded the test and told me that

Before I could take classes for my High School Diploma, I had to take a test to see what my math

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and reading levels were. My reading level was good to start classes, but my math level was low, so I had to go to math "boot camp."

I spent a month in math boot camp where I learned basic middle

school math. I took a test and passed, so I went on to a more challenging class. I was determined to pass to the highest level, so I studied a lot outside of class. I studied math books, visited helpful websites, and went to the lab. The lab is where I can spend time on workbooks and watch Khan Academy videos to improve my math skills. When

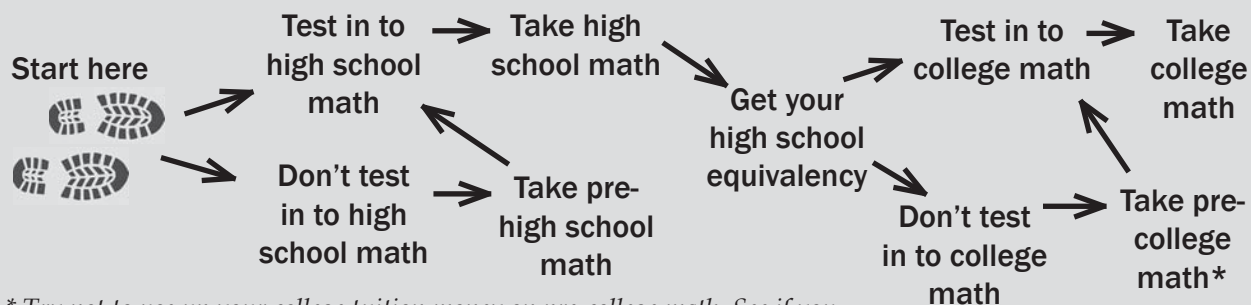
I passed. I was so excited that I called my oldest son and told him about my success.

I am now in class to get my High School Diploma. I am more comfortable with math than I was a few months ago. As for my children, I can now help them with some of their math homework. There are times I ask my husband for help, and he doesn't even know how to do the problem until I show him how. Math can be fun once you understand all the steps you need to take to solve a problem.



Esperanza Ramirez is in the Foundational Skills Institute at the Community College of Denver. She is 34 years old and lives in Colorado with her husband, four children, and dog Lucky. She is studying to complete her High School Equivalency.

Steps to College Level Math



* Try not to use up your college tuition money on pre-college math. See if you can find a class in your community that will help you learn basic math for free.