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The eight *Standards for Mathematical Practice* in the Common Core and the *2011 Massachusetts State Framework for Mathematics* represent what mathematically proficient students are doing as they learn mathematics. Each month, one of the *Practices* is illuminated.

Mathematics Practice Standard #3
Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others

Mathematically proficient students… Justify their conclusions, communicate them to others, and respond to the arguments of others. They…. Distinguish correct logic or reasoning from that which is flawed, and – if there is a flaw in an argument- explain what it is.
... Elementary students can construct arguments using concrete referents such as objects, drawings, diagrams, and actions. Such arguments can make sense and be correct, even though they are not generalized or made formal until later grades. … Students at all grades can listen or read the arguments of others, decide whether they make sense, and ask useful questions to clarify or improve the arguments.

-CCSS

You can help your child develop and apply this practice by encouraging him/her to persevere in order to reach a solution. Ask questions such as:

- What does your answer mean?
- How do you know that your answer is correct?
- How can you be sure?
- Will that still work if…?
- Did you try something that did not work? Why didn't it work? Would it ever work?