In ST Math®, the puzzles start off simple and then get more challenging as your student progresses. If they encounter a difficult puzzle, they may ask you for your help. Don’t feel like you have to give your student the right answer. Allow them to experience productive struggle.

Here are some questions that you can ask your student to help them stay motivated. These questions can be used in the classroom or at home:

• Describe what you see on the screen.
• What have you tried to do to solve the puzzle?
• What do you think you need to do to solve the puzzle?
• Describe the strategy that you are going to try.
• What do you think is going to happen when you click the Go Button?
• Describe what you see after you try your strategy. Was it what you expected?
• How does this compare to what you thought would happen?
• What did you learn from the animated feedback?
• What do you know now to help you with future puzzles?

If they continue to struggle and do not know what to do, have them play a previous level. Then ask them, “What did you learn from the previous level that can help you in this new level?” followed by, “Why do you think it worked?” Or suggest using some math tools they can find around the house.