

12 WAYS TO DO MATH AT HOME

Math is all around us. Everyday activities and family adventures provide many rich opportunity to engage in mathematical thinking with your child.

Here are just some of the ways you can do math at home all year long!

1 COUNT EVERYTHING
Count out loud as you go through the day with your child. Count the stairs as you climb up or down; count the knives and forks as you get them out or put them away; count the steps as you dance. For older children, practice skip-counting.

2 PLAY WITH SHAPES
Pick a shape to look for wherever you and your child go for the whole day. Find that shape, wherever it is. Some days, look for a flat shape, such as triangles, rectangles, squares, circles; other days look for a shape that is not flat, such as cylinders, spheres and pyramids.

3 COMPARE
Notice what is the same and different about various objects. From a group of similar objects, which one doesn't belong, and why? Which object is tallest, heaviest, longest, etc? How much taller, heavier, longer...?

4 GAME ON
Play card or board games that involve counting or looking for patterns. Use dice or playing cards to make a game out of practicing math facts.

5 KEEP TRACK
Track or graph scores or stats for a favorite sports team. Keep track of the time the sun rises and sets, the phases of the moon, or the weather. Use the data to look for patterns and make predictions.

6 TAKE A NATURE WALK
Math and Nature are very close friends. Go for a walk in the forest or by the water, or in a park or your backyard. Even as you walk your kids to school you will see patterns in nature. Help your child notice numbers, shapes, and sizes.

7 MIX IT UP
Have your child measure ingredients for a recipe you are making. To practice fractions, halve, double or triple a favorite summertime recipe...then enjoy the delicious results!

8 COLLECT AND SORT
Children love to collect and gather items, especially at the park, beach, forest or even in the backyard. Encourage children to sort their items by size, color, shape or texture.

9 HIT THE ROAD
Have your children make predictions about what they think they'll see on the road, such as animals or colors of a car, and keep points for sightings. Choose a "number of the hour" and find ways to combine numbers they see on passing license plates or even road signs to reach that number. Estimate travel time or distance between exits using road signs.

10 ESTIMATE
Estimation is one way to increase a child's number sense. Ask your child to make an estimate. Then count or measure to compare the actual number to the estimate. Helping your child learn to make appropriate predictions will help her see how numbers are used in everyday life.

11 EVERYDAY ERRANDS
Ask your child to count the change at the grocery store, figure out the best bargains or estimate the total cost while you are shopping.

12 READ A BOOK
There are many children's books that have math-related content and themes. Math becomes more interesting when a child can make a math connection in a story. When children are reading or listening to a book, they learn to recognize that math is used all around them.

TURN ANY ACTIVITY INTO A MATH EXPERIENCE

Many activities can be turned into a math experience for your kids just by asking some intriguing questions.

Questions like these help make math more accessible and applicable to the world around us.

What do you notice about ...?
What do you think will happen if ...?

What changed when we did that?
Why did that happen?

How can we ...?
Can you think about it a different way?

MATH GAMES

Chutes and Ladders

HiHo Cherry-O!

Link

SET

Rush Hour

Blokus

Spot It

Dominoes

Sequence Numbers

Sequence Dice

Shut the Box

Mancala

Uno

War

Yahtzee

Tenzi

Chocolate Fix

Sumoku

Tri-FACTa

Quirkle

Prime Climb

Tiny Polka Dot

Games to Play with a Deck of Cards

tinyurl.com/acingmathcards

Games to Play with Dice

tinyurl.com/mathwithdice

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR KIDS

Mathical Book Prize Winners

<http://www.mathicalbooks.org/>

Children's Books that Build a Love of Math

<https://www.the-best-childrens-books.org/math-for-kids.html>

Math Literature for Young Adults

<https://guides.library.duq.edu/CurriculumCenter/mathliterature>

Start with a Book: Math and Measuring

<https://www.startwithabook.org/summer-reading-learning/math-and-measuring>

Book Lists with Science and Math Concepts

<https://www.pragmaticmom.com/booklists/book-lists-science-math/>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

Bedtime Math

<http://bedtimemath.org/>

Table Talk Math: A Practical Guide for Bringing Math Into Everyday Conversations, by John Stevens

www.tabletalkmath.com

Let's Play Math: How Families Can Learn Math Together - and Enjoy It, by Denise Gaskins

www.letsplaymath.net

Family Math Fun

www.tinyurl.com/FamilyMathFun

Math Anywhere

<https://www.mathanywhere.org/>

Helping Your Child Learn Mathematics

English - <https://tinyurl.com/HYCLMEng>

Spanish - <https://tinyurl.com/HYCLMSp>

Becoming a Math Family

<https://becomingamathfamily.uchicago.edu/>