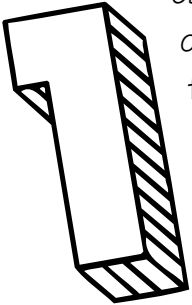




Fun with Math

This issue is devoted to fun and easy ways that you can teach math to your children. Help get your kids off to a good start in school by showing them how fun math can be. If you know how to look for them you'll find that math activities are everywhere in your home and won't cost you anything.



Kitchen Math

Did you know that the kitchen is one of the best places to find math? Give your children dried beans or small dry pasta and an empty egg carton. Write the numbers 1 to 12 on each section. Ask your child to fill each section with the correct number of beans. Children, ages four and five, love to take the time to count out the beans. Show them how to count one bean at a time. This helps children learn the importance of matching one number to one thing.

While you are busy in the kitchen, give your child something fun to do. Make a pattern: lay down two pieces of cereal, and three dried beans, then another two pieces of cereal and another three dried beans. Ask your child to "read" the pattern and continue it. Children love to follow new patterns.

You can also use dry pasta or pretzels for this game—whatever you have. Children love to make their own new patterns, too.

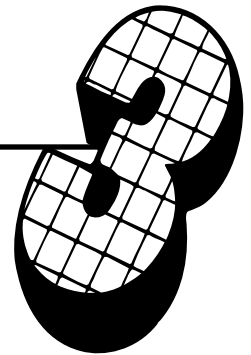
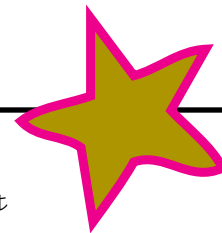
Children love to work on real life math problems, like setting the table. Ask



them to count out the napkins and make sure they give each person only one. Do we have enough cookies for each person

to have two of them? Can you lay them on each plate? Not only do children learn from doing these jobs, it can help you get dinner ready.

Involve your child in measuring and counting when you cook and bake. Children enjoy counting tablespoons of butter if you show them how, or measuring water or flour. Counting and cooking go together. From counting the cups of flour to setting the oven timer, cooking activities give children a chance to practice their number skills. The best thing about this type of math is that children also learn about cooking, an important life skill.



Sportsaholic Math

Math fun is in your living room as well. The scores in hockey, baseball, basketball, football, and other sports are all numbers, and you can use them in math activities. Get the sports section of the newspaper and check the latest scores for your favorite sports team. Give your child two paper plates and a marker, and ask your child to color the plates the colors of the two teams who played yesterday. Write the score for each team on the plate or ask your child to do it. Then give your child a handful of dry pasta, any shape, and ask him to count out the score for each team. Children love to keep little notebooks of scores on their favorite teams. Ask your child how many times his team has won this season. This helps preschool children better understand what these scores really mean. It makes math come alive for the sports fan in your family.

Bath Math

Math is in the bathtub, too. Give your child pitchers and plastic containers, and let her entertain herself pouring the water from one container into another. You can use empty soda bottles or other containers you usually throw away. Children learn many things from water play. How much water is needed to fill up a large container? If I pour the water from the large container into the small container, will there be extra water that spills back into the bathtub? Why does the same amount of water look different when it is poured from a tall container into short, fat container?

Give your child a cup of fresh water to drink while he is playing so he is less likely to drink the bathwater. This is a great time for you to rest and relax.

Read a magazine, but remember to stay in the bathroom to keep your child safe in the tub.

Shape Games

Math games are only as far away as your paper and markers. Make your child a set of paper shapes. Cut triangles, squares, circles, and rectangles out of card-stock or cardboard from a shirt box. Make at least ten of each shape. You and your child could color them.

There are many things you can do with these shapes. Make a pattern by putting shapes in a row: two triangles, one circle, two triangles. Ask your child to "read" and continue the pattern. Or simply give the shapes to your child and let her make her own design by laying out the shapes in any way she likes.

Talk about the names of the shapes. Don't bother drilling your child in the shape names. She will learn them just as easily if you just talk about them as she is using them. You can just say what she is doing: "You put the red circle on top of the blue triangle." Keep your shape game in a little bag and pull it out when you need to talk on the phone, or are otherwise busy.

Laundry Room Math

Math is in your laundry room, too. Ask your child to help you to match and sort socks. Children love to be involved in this helpful chore and they learn important sorting skills as they help with the family work.

1, 2, 3, Let's Read a Little Math

Math can also mean curling up and reading with your children. Math can be found in wonderful counting books and storybooks, too. Ask your local librarian. The best counting books have things that your child loves. Here are some math books you might want to try:

Alexander, who Used to be Rich last Sunday
Voirst, J.
Scholastic, Inc.

Anno's Counting House
Anno, M., Philomel Books

The Cheerios Counting Book
McGrath, B.
Scholastic, Inc.

Count
Fleming, D.
Scholastic, Inc.

Counting Sheep
Archambault, J.
The Trumpet Club

Domino Addition
Long, L., Scholastic, Inc.

The Doorbell Rang
Hutchins, P.
Scholastic, Inc.

Eating Fractions
McMillan, B.
Scholastic, Inc.

Give Me Half!
Murphy, S.
Scholastic, Inc.

The M & M Counting Book
McGrath, B.
Scholastic, Inc.

Numbears: A Counting Book
Hague, K.
Scholastic, Inc.

Pigs in the Pantry: Fun with Math and Cooking
Axelrod, A.
Scholastic, Inc.

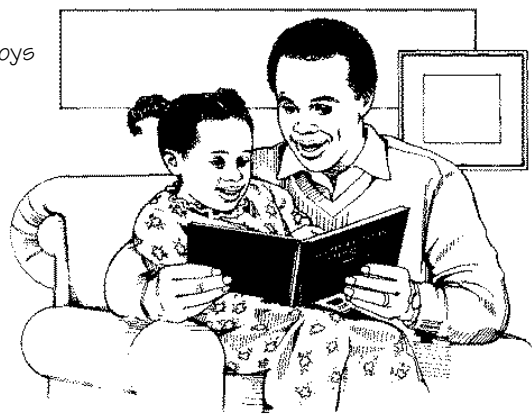
Pigs will be Pigs
Axelrod, A.
Scholastic, Inc.

Ten in the Bed
Dale, P.
Discovery Toys

Ten Terrible Dinosaurs
Stickland, P.
Scholastic, Inc.

Twelve Ways to Get to Eleven
Merriam, E.
Bantam

26 Letters and 99 Cents
Hoban, T.
Scholastic, Inc.



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Professional Development
for Child Caregivers

PENNSYLVANIA



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253 Easterly Parkway, State College, PA 16801 • Phone: 1-800-452-9108 • Website: betterkidcare.psu.edu.

Dr. James E. Van Horn, Better Kid Care Program Director

Lyn Horning, Program Associate