

Although children are taught mathematics in school, research shows that families are an essential part of the learning process. By doing mathematics with your children, you can make a difference. Here are some ideas for you and your child to do this summer. Have fun doing math!



KINDERGARTEN GAMES

Compare/Top It

Deal the cards among all of the players. Each player flips over a card; the player with the highest number takes all of the cards. Whoever has the most cards at the end of the game wins!

Clacker

Each player lays out the cards ace through 9. Roll two dice. The sum is your total. Turn over any combination of the cards that equals your sum. When the remaining cards total 6 or less, you can roll one die. The goal is to turn over all the cards. When you can't turn over any more cards, your turn is over. Your score is the sum of the remaining cards. Now it's your partner's turn. The person with the lowest score wins!

Commercial Games

Did you know lots of games you buy include math? Here are some mathematical games that are good for kindergartners. You may already have them at home. Play any game that uses dice. Some suggestions are:
Hi-Ho Cherry-O, Mancala, Uno, Connect-4, Checkers.

MATH TOOLKIT

Organize a math toolkit. Keep items in a central place in your home. Here are some ideas for things to include in your child's math toolkit.

- Coins to count and sort
- Customary & Metric rulers
- Stopwatch or other timers
- Deck of cards
- Calculator
- Calendar



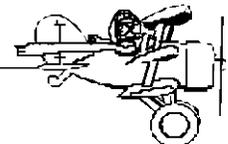
Hundred chart (Find one at <http://math.about.com/library/100.pdf>)
Button, beads or beans for counting.
Have children incorporate these items into their play.

WEBSITES



Here are some websites children will like.
<http://www.pbs.org/parents/earlymath/> Activities and online games for children and resources for parents.
<http://www.harcourtschool.com/thinkmath/> Online games by grade level and topic.

Traveling Thoughts



Point out numbers in your travels. Find numbers on signs such as speed limits and route signs, on houses and buildings. Look at license plates. Check the odometer at the start and end of your trip. Where else can you find numbers when you are traveling in your car?



Books for Parents and Children

These books provide many activities to do at home.

Davila Coates, G. and Kerr Stenmark, J. 1997. *Family Math for Young Children*. Berkeley: Berkeley Press. This books offers games and activities to do.

"Hello Math" Series. 1995-1997. New York: Scholastic. The books are labeled according to reading level. Each book includes ideas for extending the mathematics in the story through discussions and activities.



Count and keep track. Count frequently. Find things to count everyday. Make sure your child says each number as s/he touches and pushes aside each item so that the count is accurate. Put out 30 buttons but ask your child to count only 27! Move on to counting by 2's and 5's. Make sure your child moves two or five items at a time when they do this! Some suggestions are: stuffed animals, crayons, books, baseball cards, erasers
Count backwards starting at 20.



12345678910...

Practice writing numbers 1-50.

What is one more? One less?

Keep a jar of coins to count.

Practice identifying coins. Sort the coins. Count the pennies by one, count the nickels by fives, the dimes by tens, and if possible the quarters by 25.

Still more math ideas to do:

- Build with any kind of building blocks
- Put together jigsaw puzzles
- Play with a calculator
- Do DOT-TO-DOTS

Keep Track... 

Count the days on a calendar until a special event. Use a stopwatch to keep track of how long it takes you to do something. Create a family TV schedule and track the amount of time watched.



Ways to Use Dice

- Roll the die. Ask your child how many dots are on the die. Your child should be able to recognize the number of dots without having to count them.
- You and your child each roll one die. Ask who has more. Ask who has fewer.

- You and your child each roll one die. Ask how many dots are on both dice combined.
Encourage your child to choose the dice with the larger number to start with and then count up from that number.
- Use the dice to play hopscotch. Instead of throwing the rock onto a number, roll a die or pair of dice to determine your number for that turn.
- Use the dice to play board games, even those that use spinners or cards.
- Children are very creative; encourage your child to invent his/her own game involving dice. Whatever the rules, encourage your child to count the dots, and start to recognize the patterns on the dice.