

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!

- Calculator, stopwatch
- Calendar
- Hundred chart (Find one at <http://math.about.com/library/100.pdf>)
- Graph paper
- Objects like buttons, beads or beans for counting by 2's, 5's, 10's.

GAMES FOR SECOND GRADE

Double Compare/Addition Top-It

Deal the cards equally among all of the players. Each player flips over two cards; the player with the highest sum takes all of the cards. The player who has the most cards at the end of the game wins! You could also play this with subtraction – the person with the greatest *difference* takes all of the cards.

Tens Go Fish

This is similar to regular "Go Fish." Remove the tens and face cards from the deck; aces count as 1. Instead of trying to find a pair, try to get the sum of ten.



Turn Over Ten

This is just like the game Concentration. Remove the tens and face cards from a deck of cards. Deal out the remaining cards face down in a rectangle. Instead of trying to find cards that match, find cards that add up to ten. You may want to use only half of the cards to start.

Commercial Games

Did you know lots of games you buy include math? Here are some mathematical games that are good for second graders. You may already have them at home. Some suggestions are: Yahtzee, Mancala, Set, Connect-4, Checkers, Monopoly, Life.

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. Have children incorporate these items into their play.

- Coins to sort and count
- Tape measure
- Customary & Metric rulers
- Deck of cards



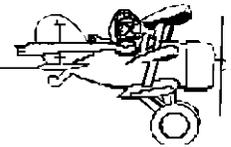
WEBSITES



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



Find numbers in your travels. Add numbers on license plates. Check the odometer at the start and end of your trip. Keep track of your mileage. Where else can you find numbers when traveling in your car?



Books for Parents and Children

Mokros, Jan. 1996. *Beyond Facts and Flashcards: Exploring Math With Your Kids*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann. This book offers ideas to help children develop important mathematical literacy skills and offers a rich collection of mathematical games and activities that relate to daily family life.

"Hello Math" Series. 1995-1997. New York: Scholastic. This series of mathematical storybooks is designed for beginning readers in grades K-3. The books are labeled according to reading level. Each book also includes ideas

for extending the mathematics in the story through discussions and activities.

FASTT Math: Summer is a good time to work on FASTT Math without the pressure of the school year. Play the games to maintain fluency. *Get ahead* start on the school year by working on practicing math facts.

MATH FACTS: How the Home Can Help

Some children learn math facts more easily than others. Given a math fact, a child needs to be able to respond correctly within 3 seconds. Children should be given regular practice, but not so much at any one time that it becomes tedious. Frequent but brief periods of practice is recommended. The following are suggestions for your child:

FASTT Math

We expect students to continue to work on FASTT Math during the summer. We would like all second graders to have completed addition and subtraction facts by September. When your child finishes an operation email dgerson@maimonides.org so your child can receive a certificate and be moved to the next operation.

FLASHCARDS

Label one envelope *Facts I Know*, label another *Facts I Need to Learn*. Focus on learning two new facts a day. Remove the flashcards from the *Facts I Know* envelope and put the two new facts into the pile of facts that your child already knows. Have your child practice those cards.

PLAIN AND FANCY COUNTING

Practice counting forward and backward, by 2's, 3's, 5's, 10's and other groups. Practice "counting on" from numbers other than zero or one.

USE WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW

If your child knows that $4+4=8$, how does this help you know what $4+5$ is, or $3+4$ is or $8-4$ is? Children know how to use doubles to find the answer to doubles plus one, or minus one. Children use family of facts to help them see how addition is related to subtraction and how multiplication is related to division. Example: $2+3=5$, $3+2=5$, $5-2=3$ and $5-3=2$

GAMES

Play games that require the use of dice. Make your own dice. Put numbers greater than 6 on the dice. Then add, subtract, multiply or divide.

Play Concentration. Make your own cards. One card should have the math fact, the other the answer.

CALCULATORS

Play *Beat the Calculator* game to solve addition, subtraction, multiplication or division problems. One person has a calculator, the other needs to solve the problem in his/her head. Children are surprised that they can beat the calculator on simple facts.

Skip Counting: A calculator with a constant feature allows the (=) key to act as either an "equals" key or as a "repeat" key. The repeat function works whenever an operation has been entered into the calculator. This is especially useful for counting by 1 or other numbers forward or backward. This is especially useful for counting by 1 or other numbers forward or backward.

WEBSITE

<http://www.thegreatmartinicompany.com> offers leveled electronic flashcards.

CELEBRATE Set reasonable goals and celebrate when your child achieves them!