

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!

## GAMES FOR FIRST GRADE

### 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!



### 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.

### 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 person who has the most cards at the end of the game wins!

### Commercial Games

Did you know lots of games you buy include math? Here are some mathematical games that are good for first graders. You may already have them at home. Play any games that use dice. Some games to play are: Yahtzee, Mancala, Uno, 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. Let your child incorporate these items into their play.

- Coins to sort and count
- Tape measure
- Customary/Metric rulers
- Deck of cards
- Calculator
- Calendar
- Hundred chart Find one at <http://math.about.com/library/100.pdf>
- Graph paper
- Button, beads or beans for counting
- Stopwatch or other timer



## WEBSITES

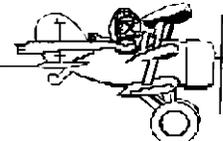


Here are some websites children will like.

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/earlymath/> Activities, 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 & Children

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

Mokros, Jan. 1996. *Beyond Facts and Flashcards: Exploring Math With Your Kids*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann. This book offers ideas how parents can help their 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.

*MathStart* Books by Stuart J. Murphy. New York: HarperCollins. This series of mathematical storybooks is designed for beginning readers in grades K-3. The books are labeled according to reading level.

# COUNT

1 2 3 4 5 6

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 suggested items to count are: stuffed animals, crayons, books, baseball cards, erasers.



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10...

Practice writing numbers 1-100.

What's one more? One less?  
Ten more? Ten less?

Keep a  
jar  
of coins  
to



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. Write the total using \$ and ¢ signs correctly.

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 with Your Child

- 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.