

12 WAYS TO DO MATH AT HOME THIS SUMMER

Summer is a rich opportunity to bring mathematical thinking into everyday activities and your favorite summertime adventures.

Here are just some of the ways you can do math at home this summer - and 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 summer 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 changed when we did that?	How can we ...?
What do you think will happen if ...?	Why did that happen?	Can you think about it a different way?