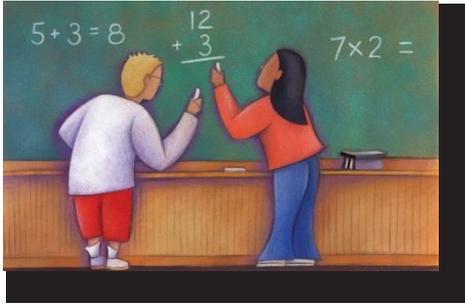


Math



Summer Tips for First Grade

Dear Parents/Guardians

Often parents and students ask what can be done over the summer to maintain skills and develop mathematical thinking. This letter contains some ideas and opportunities for you and your child to enjoy math over the vacation months. Below are some websites and apps that you can use with your child to assist the development of good math skills. On the reverse are example activities that you can do every day with your child. These games and activities will help strengthen your child's mathematical foundation, that which will be further developed in their pre-kindergarten classroom.

Mathematics Review from Kindergarten

The focus of pre-kindergarten is exposing students to the math in their world. This is typically done informally through play and the context of everyday activities. Content is focused on:

Counting:

- Count objects to tell how many there are
- Count forward, including starting at a number other than 1
- Act out story problems

Measurement:

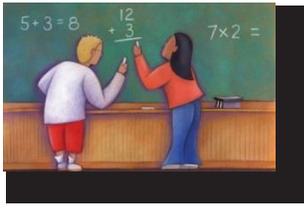
- Sort and classify objects using attributes (color/size/shape)
- Order objects
- Compare two objects by measure (longer/shorter, heavier/lighter)

Geometry:

- Identify a pattern (red/blue/red/blue or stripes on the American Flag), extend a pattern, create a pattern, and describe the rule for the pattern
- Identify basic shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle) both generally and in the environment
- Use positional language to describe location, direction, and position of objects

Recommended Math Websites and Apps

1. www.abcya.com
2. <http://pbskids.org>
3. <http://www.sheppardsoftware.com>
4. <http://www.ct.gov/sde/summermathchallenge>
1. Math Concentration
2. Okta's Rescue
3. Monster Squeeze
4. Park Math
5. Number Rack



Five Tips for Summer Math Learning

- 1. Math Around the House** – Math is a natural part of our everyday life. Use the following ideas to help you and your child find the math in familiar situations.
 - Have your child set the table by counting out how many forks, plates, and napkins are needed.
 - Create a Mathematics Fruit Salad. Choose fruit to go into the salad. How many pieces of apple should go into the bowl? How many slices of banana? Peel an orange and together count the number of sections. Add the fruit to the bowl, counting each type as you go.
 - You can find all kinds of shapes in the kitchen. Look at containers, cereal, crackers, and pieces of fruit. What shapes do you see? Try nibbling a cracker or cookie into a circle or cookie into a circle or triangle.
 - Sort laundry, silverware, and toys together. Talk about the groups you make. How are the objects in each group the same? Why do things belong in one group and not another? How many are in each group?
 - Collect non-breakable containers that are different shapes and sizes, such as cottage cheese containers, plastic bottles, and juice containers. Use the containers to pour water back and forth in a sink or bathtub. Try to find out which container holds the most, the least, or about the same.
- 2. Early Number Sense and Counting** – Matching numbers with sets of objects helps your child develop a sense for a number. Also, be on the lookout for opportunities to practice counting. Keep these counting activities brief, fun, and playful.
 - Cut an egg carton in half and label each cup with the numbers 1 – 6. Count out the correct number of an item (pennies, macaroni, or beans) for each cup.
 - Count the shoes in your closet or cans in the pantry. Lining up items to count helps children keep track of which items they have already counted.
 - When washing hands, have your child count up as high as they can. This is a great way to make sure your child's hands get clean!
 - Liven up walks by having your child hop or skip a certain number of times. Say the number and show it by using your fingers.
 - Count the stairs with your child as you walk up them. Count them again as you walk down. Is it the same number?
- 3. Numbers about Me** – Children enjoy thinking about the numbers that relate to themselves, such as their ages, birth dates, addresses, and so on. This helps them understand the many ways we use numbers.
 - What is your favorite number? See how many times you can find the number in magazines, then cut out the numbers and use them to create a collage.
 - Look outside your apartment or house and have your child try to find your address. Write your phone number on a sticker to put on the phone and have your child find it. Challenge your child to remember these numbers.
- 4. Games** – Play games that encourage math skills. Focus on taking turns and counting exactly the number of spaces on a board to match the number rolled or spun. Some examples:
 - Chutes and Ladders
 - Candy Land
 - Hi Ho Cherry-O
 - Go Fish
- 5. Reading and Writing Math** – Read books about math. Some suggestions:
 - Any of the books by author Tana Hoban
 - *I Spy Little Numbers* by Jean Marzollo
 - *Ten Black Dots* by Donald Crews
 - *Rooster's Off to See the World* by Eric Carle
 - *One Duck Stuck* by Phyllis Root
 - *Ten Apples Up on Top!* by Theo LeSieg (Dr. Seuss)

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