Parents in the Know

Focus on Math

Flash Cards

Flash cards are a quick and easy way to practice math skills. All you need to make flashcards is a stack of index cards and a marker. Write the problem on one side and the answer on the other. Then, you can practice math skills with your child. Your child can also practice on her own. You can also make flash cards to practice vocabulary for any subject!

http://jhfr9lindaluu.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/teaching.jpg

Math on the Road

There are lots of real world activities that you can use to teach your child math.

In the car
Road trips provide a great chance to talk about mileage, distance, and speed. Counting different color cars and identifying the shapes of road signs is great for younger children.

At the grocery store
The grocery store provides opportunities for everything from basic counting to advanced statistics. Help your child compare prices, sizes, quantities, values, and even figure out the effect coupons have on prices and your bill.

Eating out
Restaurant menus are a great place to practice addition, subtraction, and even multiplication. Let your child figure out what she could buy with $10.00. How much change would she have?

Math Riddles

Q: If you take 3 apples away from a group of 5 apples, how many apples do you have?
A: Three, you took them!

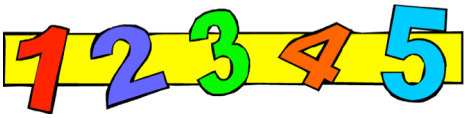
Q: You have 2 U.S. coins that equal 35 cents. One is not a quarter. What are they?
A: A quarter and a dime. Only 1 of them was not a quarter.

Q: If two is company and three is a crowd, what are four and five?
A: 9

What is My Child Learning in Math?

Math in elementary school lays the foundation for advanced Algebra, Calculus, and Trigonometry in later years.

Algebra: Children begin to use basic algebra when they solve story problems.
Arithmetic: Arithmetic includes skills related to addition, subtraction, multiplication, etc.
Calculus: Children us basic calculus ideas when they make predictions.
Estimation: Estimation is guessing the value of something.
Geometry: Children begin to use basic geometry when they work with shapes.
Measurement: Children learn a wide variety of measurement skills from length, area, and time.
Number sense: Number sense is understanding the sizes of numbers.
Probability: Probability is determining the likelihood something will happen.
Statistics: Statistics is the collection and studying of data.



Focus on Math

Kitchen Math

You don't have to buy expensive games or manipulatives to help your child practice math skills. A world of math awaits you in the kitchen!

* Practice measuring, fractions, and estimation while cooking.
* Compare sizes and weights of objects you are cooking with.
* Figure out how to double or triple the ingredients in your favorite recipe.
* Read nutrition labels and calculate the recommended daily allowance.

http://www.edweek.org/media/2011/03/31/tsdigitalwriting_lede_600.jpg

Math Tricks

Math tricks are a great way for children to practice math skills and problem solving. For example:

Step1: Think of a number less than 10.
Step2: Double the number.
Step3: Add 6 to the doubled number.
Step4: Divide your answer so far by 2
Step5: Subtract the number you originally thought of from your answer so far.

Answer: 3

You can find this and other math tricks at:
http://easycalculation.com/funny/tricks/trick1.php

Solving Word Problems

Word problems can be confusing to adults and children alike. However, there are some simple steps that will help you solve word problems with your children.

1. First figure out what the problem is asking. This usually comes at the end of the problem.
2. Underline important information and cross out information you don't need.
3. Draw a picture or make a table to illustrate what you know and what is being asked.

Fruit Kabobs

1 apple and banana
2/3 cup red and green seedless grapes
2/3 cup pineapple chunks
1 cup nonfat yogurt
1/4 cup dried coconut, shredded

Supplies: Plastic knife, 2 wooden skewers, plate

1. Wash fruit and cut it into small pieces
2. Spread coconut on plate
3. Slide pieces of fruit on the skewer making a pattern
4. Roll the kabob in yogurt, then roll in the coconut

Find this and other easy recipes that encourage math skills at KidsHealth:
http://kidshealth.org/kid/recipes/index.html#cat20229

Book Corner

Spotlight on Graphs

Tally O'Malley, by Stuart Murphy and Cynthia Jabar
The Great Graph Contest, by Loreen Leedy
Graphs: All Aboard Math Reader, by Bonnie Bader and Mernie Cole
Giraffe Graphs, by Melissa Stew

"You will always be your child's favorite toy."
Vicki Lansky