



# Parents in the Know

## Focus on Math

### iPhone Apps

Parenting.com recommends the following iPhone Apps (\$2.99 or less) for young children:

- Toddler Teasers: Shapes (Ages 2-4)
- Money Preschool LunchBox (Ages 2-5)
- Checkers (Ages 4+)
- Pegs (Free, Ages 4+)
- Tic-Tac-Toe 4 Two Players (Free, Ages 4+)
- Kids Bingo (Free, Ages 6+)
- Reversi (Ages 6+)



### Manipulatives You Can Make

Manipulatives are “hands-on” objects your child can use to practice skills. Many of the store bought manipulatives your child uses at school can be made simply at home.

**Counters:** Use noodles, buttons, or beans

**Lacing Cards:** Cut out the front of a cereal box and punch holes for lacing

**Fractions:** Cut paper plates into parts to represent different fractions

**Flash Cards:** Make flash cards using markers and index cards

**Sorting:** Use beads, buttons, or shells

**Tangrams:** Cut shapes from construction paper

**Clock:** Write the numbers of a clock on a paper plate and make hands with construction paper



### What is My Child Learning?

Math classes today focus on a wide variety of skills. The National Research Council’s Mathematics Learning Study Committee has identified computing, understanding, applying, reasoning, and engaging as important skills for all children.

Computing: Using math procedures like addition and subtraction

Understanding: Comprehending math concepts

Applying: Knowing how to solve problems

Reasoning: Using logic to solve problems

Engaging: Using math as a daily skill

### Making the Real World Connection

Things are easier to learn and understand when they are related to the real world. There are many real world math experiences you can provide that your child’s teacher cannot. Let your child:

- \* Plot your trip on a road map
- \* Clip coupons and calculate how much you can save
- \* Plan the week’s grocery list using recipes to determine quantities needed
- \* Use grocery ads to compare prices



### What Research Says

Research shows that children’s early math experiences lay the foundation for their later math achievement. Positive early experiences with math concepts results in increased interest and confidence in math.

Based on: “Math Skills and Young Children”, National Center for Learning Disabilities”, <http://www.nclld.org/at-school/general-topics/early-learning-aamp-literacy/math-skills-and-young-children>

# Math

## Math Software

TopTenREVIEWS reviews a wide variety of software. They list many benefits of good math software. They state that good math software can boost children's confidence, provide entertainment, encourage critical thinking, accuracy and basic math skills. Some of the math programs they recommend are:

Elementary Advantage  
Mighty Math Zoo Zillions  
The Quarter Mile Math  
Young Einstein Mathematics  
Mighty Math Carnival Countdown



## A Child's View



Mrs. Smith had spent the last week teaching multiplication to her students. As a review, she called on Tommy to answer what she thought was a simple question.

Mrs. Smith: "Tommy, if you got \$10 from 10 people, what would you have?"

Tommy: "A new bike!"

## Talking with Your Child

Many parents are surprised by their child's report card. They are unaware of the areas that their child was struggling in until the report arrives. Take matters into your own hands and know what is going on with your child.

Ask your child specific questions about school that require more than a one word answer. Review your child's homework and graded work brought home daily.

Let your child know that it is safe to share his struggles with you.

Create time each day designed just to talk with your child. Dinner time or time in the car work well.



## How Can I Help?



There are many things that you can do on a daily basis to help your child succeed in math.

Know your child's curriculum and what skills she should master.

Review your child's homework daily and explain any areas of confusion.

Play math games and help your child see math being used in her "real world".

Play games that encourage math skills such as Dominoes, chess, and Monopoly.

Read books that discuss math topics. Your local librarian will have plenty of suggestions!



## Book Corner

### Spotlight on Time

Midnight Fright, by Kathryn Heling  
It's About Time!, by Stuart Murphy  
Me Counting Time, by Joan Sweeney

**MathStart** is a great series of picture books that teach math skills for elementary students.

**"Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas."**

**Albert Einstein**