



Parents in the Know

Focus on Math

Test Yourself

See how many of these common math terms you know.

Acute Angle: Less than a right angle

Addend: A number that is added to another

Analog Clock: A clock with hands

Billion: One thousand million

Cardinal Number: Used to tell how many things are in a group (ex. 4 children, 3 cats)

Chord: A line segment on a circle

Circumference: Distance around a circle

Commutative Property: When the order of numbers for an addition or multiplication problem is changed, the answer is the same

Congruent Figures: Figures that are the same size and shape

Decimeter: Ten centimeters

Denominator: The bottom number of a fraction, tells how many pieces are in the whole

Equilateral Triangle: Equal on all sides

Expanded Form: Showing the value for each digit, ex. $487 = 400 + 80 + 7$

Inverse Operation: Opposite operations (addition and subtraction, multiplication and division)

Line of Symmetry: A line that divides exactly in half

Mean: The average of a group of numbers

Ordinal Numbers: Words that describe the order of things (first, second, . . .)

Perimeter: The distance around an object

Pictograph: A graph using pictures to represent what is being measured

Quantification: Determining how many

Based on: "Multimedia Math Glossary", Harcourt School Publishers, http://www.harcourtschool.com/glossary_math2/indexk.html



Math Fact Games

Math facts can be boring to practice. But, the only way that children memorize them is through practice. Next time your child needs to practice her facts, try one of these simple games.

Riddles: Write riddles on index cards for your child to solve. For example, I am a number that is a perfect square, divisible by two and four. The sum of my two digits is seven. Who am I?
Answer: 16

Memory: Write math facts on 10-20 index cards. Then, write the answers on separate index cards. Turn the cards over, mix them up, and try to find problems and solutions that match.

Based on: Geraldine Campbell, "Count 'Em up: 5 Skill-Building Math Activities", Scholastic Parents, <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3749771>

Questioning Math

Many times asking your child questions about what they are working on is helpful for children who are struggling. It helps students think through answers without providing them. Next time your child is struggling, ask some of the following:

What do the instructions say?

Where should you begin?

What do you already know that can help you solve the problem?

Where is it that you are stuck?

Tell me what you have done so far and why.

What Research Says



Your child's curriculum is based on best practices and national math standards. The goal of a math program is for students to:

1. value math
2. be confident problem solvers
3. learn to solve math problems
4. be able to communicate mathematics
5. reason mathematically

Ask your child's teacher for ways that you can help!

Based on: David L. Haury and Linda A. Milbourne, "Helping Your Child Learn Math", ERIC http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs25q/content_storage_01/0000019b/80/15/d5/c1.pdf

Focus on Math

Helping at Home

There are many research based things that you can do to help your child in school.

1. Have a daily routine and enforce it.
2. Limit TV, computer, and game time.
3. Be a good role model.
4. Set high, realistic expectations. And, help your child meet them.
5. Encourage your child. Help with homework, ask about school, and get involved.
6. Talk with your child.
7. Take advantage of community resources.

Based on: "Actions Parents Can Take to Help Their Children Succeed in School", North Central Regional Educational Laboratory, <http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/envmnt/famcom/pa1k5.htm>



"Education is more than filling a child with facts. It starts with posing questions." D. T. Max

Math Picture Books

There have been major changes in children's literature in the last decade. Check some of these out with your child the next time you are at the library.

Number Sense

A Million Fish... More or Less, by Patricia C. McKissack
A Three Hat Day, by Laura Geringer
Two of Everything, by Lily Toy Hong

Counting

1 Hunter, by Pat Hutchins
Grandpa Gazillions Number Yard, by Laurie Keller
How Many Feet? How Many Tails?: A book of Math Riddles, by Marilyn Burns

Measurement

Jim and the Beanstalk, by Raymond Briggs
Pigs in the Pantry: Fun with Math and Cooking, by Amy Axelrod
What's Smaller Than a Pygmy Shrew?, by Robert E. Wells

Money

The Coin Counting Book, by Rozanne Lanczak Williams
How the Second Grade Got \$8,205.50 to Visit the Statue of Liberty, by Nathan Zimelman
If You Made a Million, by David Schwartz



Based on: "Picture Books for Math", [ChildrensPictureBooks.info](http://childrenspicturebooks.info), http://childrenspicturebooks.info/articles/picture_books_for_math.htm

Picture Books for Upper Grades

Images provided by clipart.com

Multiplication

The Best of Times, by Greg Tang
Bats on Parade, by Kathi Appelt
Amanda Bean's Amazing Dream: A Mathematical Story, by Cindy Neuschwander

Division

The Great Divide, A Mathematical Marathon, by Dayle Anne Dodds
One Hundred Hungry Ants, by Elinor J. Pinczes
One Hungry Cat, by Joanne Rocklin

Fractions

Fraction Fun, by David A. Adler
Give Me Half, by Stuart J. Murphy
Jump Kangaroo, Jump, by Stuart J. Murphy

Problem Solving

The Grapes of Math, by Greg Tang
Math Appeal: Mind Stretching Math Riddles, by Greg Tang
Math for All Seasons, by Greg Tang

Based on: "Picture Books for Math", [ChildrensPictureBooks.info](http://childrenspicturebooks.info), http://childrenspicturebooks.info/articles/picture_books_for_math.htm

