

How Can I Help My Child With Math Over the Summer?



“Math” with your child. Involve your child in the mathematics of your world. Children need to understand that we use math constantly in our daily lives. A few ideas:

Money-Children should know the names and values of coins, and as they get older they need to understand basic equivalences (i.e. 20 nickels = 10 dimes = 4 quarters = 2 half dollars = 1 dollar). Have older children help you determine the better buy at the grocery store. Younger children can determine which of two brands is more or less expensive.

Time-Have analog clocks and watches available. Ask your child what time it is at various important times during the day (lunchtime, dinnertime, etc.). For older children ask how much longer until a certain activity starts and how long have we been here? Use a calendar to count down the time until a certain event (in months, weeks, days).

Kitchen Fun-Give your younger child tasks like sorting ingredients and using measuring tools to measure the ingredients to make a certain recipe. Older students can work on fractions, determining how much of each ingredient is needed if you double, triple, or halve the recipe.

Estimation-Estimation is one way to increase a child’s number sense. Before you put a stack of folded towels on a shelf or fill a bowl with peaches, ask your child to estimate how many will fit. Then count afterward 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. Teach your child that they should always question whether their answer is reasonable. Talk through whether the estimate was reasonable or not, and why.

Utilize Technology

1. Students currently in kindergarten, may continue to login to and work in **Dreambox**
2. Students currently in grades 1 and 2 may log into **Xtramath.org** to practice fact fluency
3. Students currently in grades 3 and 4 may log into **IXL.com** and **Xtramath.org** to practice math skills (students will receive information on which skills they need to practice)
 - Dreambox is an adaptive online math program designed to complement classroom instruction
 - XtraMath is a web-based program that helps students learn basic math facts critical to math success. Students should log in at least three times a week for approximately ten minutes each session.
 - IXL provides comprehensive online standards-based math practice

Games-play games that reinforce math skills (see suggestions on next page).