

Supporting Common Core State Standards

Build your child's math skills

The Mathematics Standards of the Common Core focus on helping students develop a deep understanding of math concepts. A key to your child's success will be his ability to apply what he knows to solve real-world problems. With your help, your child can develop the skills and attitude he needs to be successful in math.

Be positive

Research shows that parents' attitudes have a lot to do with how well their children do in math. Kids who enjoy math do better in it. But kids whose parents tell them they didn't like math when they were in school, not surprisingly, often have trouble in math. Encourage your child to do her best in math and let her know you believe she can do well.

Go on a math walk

When you walk in your neighborhood, count the number of animals, birds, fire hydrants or green cars you see. Look for geometric shapes—circles, right angles, cones and so on—in the windows and buildings. Estimate how far you'll walk—later, perhaps you can check with a car odometer.

Ask silly questions

Try making math fun by asking silly questions that require math to answer them: "How many minutes is it until your birthday?" "What percent of the pizza did Dad eat tonight?" After you ask the question, ask your child how he could find the answer. Have him solve the problem with pencil and paper or a calculator. Challenge each other to think of new fun questions.

Get cooking

When preparing meals, let your child help with weighing and measuring. Discuss sizes, shapes and fractions. Find answers to questions such as, "How could we double this recipe?" and, "When we add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup to $\frac{1}{4}$ cup, what do we get?"



Go grocery shopping

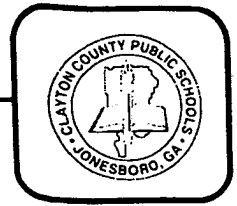
Bring a calculator with you and have your child keep a running tally of purchases. Use coupons to inspire math problems also. "If we use this coupon, will the product cost less than other brands?" "Which of these items is really the best deal per pound?"

Take a road trip

Calculate how many miles you'll go. If you're driving, how much gas will you use? In the car, say a number between 1 and 10. Who can find a license plate with numbers that add up to the number you called out?

Play games

Card games like "Go Fish" and "Gin Rummy" teach counting, sorting and strategy. Try a game with dice, too. Throw two to six dice. Have your child add the number of dots. Keep each player's score on paper. The first player to get a certain score (50, 100 or 500) wins.



Questions to Help Your Child with Math

- What is the problem you're working on?
- Let's look at it.
- What do the directions say?
- What words or directions don't you understand?
- Where do you think you should begin?
- What do you already know that can help you work through the problem?
- Tell me what you've ~~done~~ so far.
- Where can we find help in your textbook or notes?
- Are there similar problems to look at?
- Let's try drawing a picture or making a diagram.
- What did the teacher ask you to do?
- What problems like this one have you had before?
- Tell me where you're stuck.
- Who can you call to get help?
- Let's try it using a calculator.
- Can you skip this problem and go on to another? • Why don't we look for some help on the Internet?
- What type of partial work does your teacher accept?
- Can you go in before or after school for help from your teacher?