

FAMILY MATH

It's the end of the school year, and although most students look forward to vacation, the summer months can have a detrimental impact on students' academic progress. It's called the "Summer Slide": skills gained during the school year melt away with the heat. Below are some suggestions to help counter Math "Summer Slide".

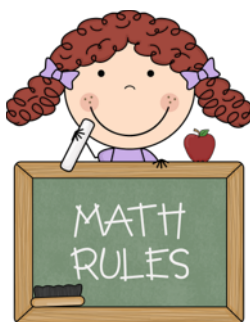


What Can Families Do to Keep Math Skills Sharp During the Summer?

As children's first and most important teachers, families have a major role to play in motivating children to continue to see how math can be applied to the world around them. There are many activities families might enjoy to encourage math all summer long.

What's for lunch?

Estimate the cost of lunch or dinner at your favorite restaurant by rounding the cost of each item then finding the approximate cost. How close did you get to the total? Did you include tax?



How much is that?

Sort coins according to type, count the number of coins and then multiply to find the total value of pennies ($\times 1$), nickels ($\times 5$), dimes ($\times 10$) and quarters ($\times 25$).

It's Time!

Summer trips, music lessons, reading, baseball games, and videos are all fun things kids like to do during the summer. Have your child create a schedule of their day, including the start and end times. Have them keep track of the time spent on activities to practice elapsed time.

Make it really interesting by having them use an analog clock throughout the day to tell time.



Weighing in at...

Have your child use the scales in the fruit and vegetable section to weigh your produce. Have them read the amount. How many ounces or pounds does the purchase weigh? Based on the price, how much will the item cost? In the dairy section look at the various sized containers holding liquids. How many cups in a pint or quart? Compare a $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon to a gallon, etc.

Does it Measure Up?

Measure the four sides of a square or rectangular picnic table using inches, and then add the four sides together to find out how long the table is around. This will reinforce perimeter.

Measure two different book lengths using centimeters then inches. Why are the measurements different?

What else can you measure outdoors?

And the Winner is....

Find the batting averages or other statistics in the sports section of a newspaper and add or subtract the statistics.

Another idea is to identify the use of decimals in sporting events