

Math Matters

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What's That Word?

EQUIVALENT means having the same value as.

PLACE VALUE is the numerical value a digit has by virtue of its position in a number.

To **DECOMPOSE** is to break apart a number.

NUMBER BONDS use the part-part-whole concept to represent the relationship between numbers

Attitude Check!

Have you ever said something like, "I'm just not good at math", "You figure out the tip, I can't do math", or "I don't have the math gene"?

We live in a country where this attitude is common and accepted, but think about the message it sends to your child. Would you ever say in front of your child "I'm just not good at reading" or "You tell me what it says, I can't read"? In today's world over 60% of jobs **require** higher-level math. If we allow our children to think that it's ok to not be good at math we are limiting their futures!

There is no such thing as a math gene. Research has shown that children are born with same ability to learn to read and do math. Perhaps those that are considered to have the math gene are actually just children whose parents and teachers taught them that they were capable of learning math and that it was important to learn math. Don't you want your child to be successful at learning math and be able to take advantage of all the opportunities that brings?!

Even if you don't feel confident in your own math skills, have a positive math attitude! Teach your child that math is important! Believe that your child can, and will, learn to understand math. Take advantage of the fact that today's math curriculum requires deeper understanding and encourage your child to explain math to you in a way that makes sense to him or her!



Calculator vs. Mathematician

Click It!
Check out these websites:

- ◆ [Parent Support from Eureka!](#) and [Greatminds.org](#)
A variety of resources to help keep parents informed and involved in supporting students using Eureka Math.
- ◆ [Aplus Math](#)
Flash cards, concentration games, more to help beginning to intermediate math students improve their skills.
- ◆ [Math Play](#)
Large collection of free online math games arranged by topic for elementary and middle school students

Lessons from a first grade class

I recently had the opportunity to talk with a group of first graders about the difference between a calculator and a mathematician.

We looked at a picture of a calculator and a picture of Albert Einstein. They knew that calculators were used for numbers. "You can put numbers in and get numbers," they told me. When the conversation turned to Einstein, one first grader very eloquently said, "He tried to figure things out and he had to try lots of times before he got it right".

We went on to discuss how mathematicians don't just get answers, they notice things, ask questions, solve problems, and share their ideas with people. By the end of our discussion most first graders were proud to say that they

would much rather be like a mathematician than a calculator.

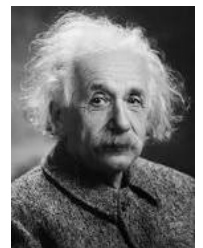


In this 21st century world of cellphones and answering devices all around

us, being a thinker and problem solver like Einstein will lead students to success!

Later, as the students were working, we gave out the "Einstein Award" to a student who tried a problem, noticed his work was incorrect, and decided to think about it again. Being a mathematician also means learning from mistakes and not giving up!

As you watch your child work, look for the Einstein. Notice and compliment problem solving, thinking, explanation, and perseverance!





Recommended Reading

Place Value (grades 4 and 5):

Sir Cumference and the All the King's Tens

by Cindy Neuschwander

Ratios (grade 6):

Pythagoras and the Ratios

by Julie Elis

Skip counting, addition and estimation (grades K-2):

How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?

by Margaret McNamara

Multiplication (grade 3):

The Lion's Share

by Matt McElligott

Math Riddles, Tips, and Tricks!

How can you add eight 8's to get the number 1,000. (Use only addition)

Answer: $888 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 8 = 1,000$

I am an odd number.

I have 3 tens.

My ones digit is the same as my tens digit.

What am I?

Answer: Thirty-Three

Figure It Out Together!

Play It:

(K-2) One More Than Bump

Game Pieces: 1 die, 8 counters, 8 counters (different from the first set), Game Mat--Draw 6 circles on a piece of paper and put a number 2-7 in a circle

Directions: Each player takes a set of 8 counters. The first child rolls the die and puts a counter on the spot that is "1 more than" the amount rolled (if you roll a 2, you would put your marker on 3). If the other player's counter is on that number, they get to BUMP it off. If your own counter is already on that number, put another counter on top of it and it freezes that spot. When a spot is frozen you cannot bump a counter off. The winner is the player that uses all of his or her counters first.

Change the numbers in the circles to play different variations: "One Less Than BUMP" or "Make Ten BUMP"

(3-6) Yahtzee

Introduce your children to an old favorite! Yahtzee is a fun dice game of luck, probability, and chance that involves practice with multiplication and addition.



There's an App for That

3 Great Apps for math strategies by Teachley:

Addimal Adventure (free)

Subtractimals (\$2.99)

Mt. Multiplis (\$2.99)

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Have a great math riddle, tip, trick, website or book to share? Have questions, comments, or concerns? Contact us by email at:

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