## Why is it important for my child to learn math?

Math skills are important to a child's success – both at school and in everyday life. Understanding math also builds confidence and opens the door to a range of career options.

In our everyday lives, understanding math enables us to:

- manage time and money, and handle everyday situations that involve numbers (for example, calculate how much time we need to get to work, how much food we need in order to feed our families, and how much money that food will cost);
- understand patterns in the world around us and make predictions based on patterns (for example, predict traffic patterns to decide on the best time to travel);
- solve problems and make sound decisions;
- explain how we solved a problem and why we made a particular decision;
- use technology (for example, calculators and computers) to help solve problems.

- Ontario Ministry of Education
www.edu.gov.on.ca

For more information on teaching your children about mathematics, please try these other great website.

US Dept of Education
www.edu.gov

British Dept of Education
www.education.gov.uk

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# Everyday Math Games for Kids

**Fun and easy math games to play with kids of all ages.**

**Play them anywhere. In the car, while grocery shopping, or even walking around the neighborhood.**

**Simple to change and re-invent for even more mathematics fun.**

# Beginners

## I Spy Shapes

The world around us is filled with shapes of all colors and sizes. Roof-tops that look like triangles. Doors that look like rectangles. Stop signs that look like octagons.

## Count your Buttons

Shirts, coats, pants, and even shoes can have buttons. Count out loud every time you button up.

## Halving Food

What's the difference between a whole and a half? Splitting a pancake in two is just one easy way to explain this sometimes difficult concept.

## +1

Beginning with single digit numbers, challenge your child to try to think of what the next number will be if you add by 1.

## Bigger or Smaller Animals

Is a cow bigger or smaller than a cat? Great to play in the car or at home by starting with animals that are noticeably different in size from one anther.

# Intermediate

## Evens and Odds

Warm up with naming all odd numbers to 19 and even numbers to 20. Then change the game to finding even or odd numbers on signs, canned goods, etc.

## Putting Numbers in Order

Great for walks or rides, try to put a house's address number in order from least to greatest and vice-versa.

## Weighing Produce

A stroll through the fruits and vegetables isle in the grocery store is a great time to see what weighs more between an apple and a potato.

## - 1

Beginning with single digit numbers, challenge your child to try to think of what the number before your number will be if you subtract by 1.

## Counting Wheels

How many wheels can you count on that big semi truck that just drove by? Make sure to count out loud, then see if you can find another truck with even more wheels.

# Advanced

## Biggest and Smallest Numbers

Great for walks and rides, challenge your child to try to re-arrange the numbers on a license plate to make the biggest or smallest number possible.

## Add it or Subtract it

While taking a mosey through your neighborhood, try to see if you can add up all of the numbers of a house's address to make one whole number. After a while, switch to subtracting all of the numbers in a house's address.

## How many Animals

How many horses did you pass on the way to school? How many dogs? Great for counting, but even better for exercising your memory.

## Greater or Lesser

How many peaches did you put in your grocery cart? How many pears? Now, will you be buying a greater or lesser amount of peaches than pears today?

## Pocket Change

How much money do you have in your pocket? Best to make sure before you go into the store, and count all your change.