

Everyday tasks can help your child strengthen math skills

Most people read every day. They probably do math, too, although they may not realize it. Math is a natural part of life, and it's important to include your child in daily math activities.

With your child, you can:

- Take a trip. Before leaving, measure the air pressure in your car or bike tires. Also calculate how many miles you'll go. If you are driving, how much gas will you use? As you travel, say a number between 1 and 10. Who can find a license plate with numbers that add up to the number you called out?
- Follow recipes. 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 shopping. Use a calculator to keep a running tally of purchases. Use coupons to inspire math problems. "If we use this coupon, will the item cost less than other brands?" "Which of these items is really the best deal per pound?"
- Save money. Help your child choose a goal, such as saving for a book. Make a chart to help. How much does she need to save each week? How long will it take her to reach the total? Keep track of how well she is doing. Then have fun shopping together!
- Play games. There are lots of fun math games you can play together. Try dominoes, Uno and Connect 4.

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