

Math Home Fun

Gloria Cuellar-Kyle

Grade 2

Get ready to discover mathematics all around you this fall!

Just like reading, regular practice with problem solving, computation, and math facts will maintain and strengthen the mathematic gains you have made over the school year.

Enjoy these activities to explore problem solving at home. The goal is for you to have fun thinking and working collaboratively as a family to communicate mathematical ideas.

While you are working ask how the solution was found and why a particular strategy helped you solve the problem.



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Keeping a Math journal is a great way for children to log their ideas about Math as well as strategies for arriving at solutions. Here is an example of a “Great” journal entry:

November 1

Today I collected 25 cents. It was easy to count 25 pennies. I know that 5 pennies is the same as 1 nickel so every time I counted five pennies

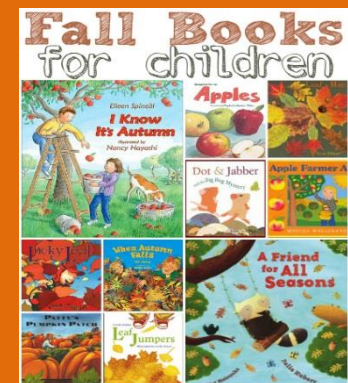
I exchanged it for a nickel, so I needed 5 nickels.

$$5 + 5 + 5 + 5 + 5 = 25 \text{ cents}$$



Check out the sampling of great Fall Math/Literature Connections:

<http://mathwire.com/literature/litfall.html>



Cool Math Books to Read Anytime:

Alexander, Who Used to Rich Last Sunday by Judith Viorst.
100 Days of School by Trudy Harris.
The Button Box by Margarete S. Reid

Fall Family Fun Math Activities

Who says Fall and Math can't go together? Explore some fun bat, pumpkin, and spider activities that incorporate probability, problem solving, estimation and more



<http://mathwire.com/themes/themebat.html>

<http://mathwire.com/literature/litfall.html>

Fun Websites to Explore ANYTIME:

www.funbrain.com

www.aplusmath.com

www.pbskids.org

www.illuminations.nctm.org Click on **ACTIVITIES**. Click on **K-2** and press **SEARCH**.

Games To Play (You will need a deck of cards)

1. Compare

Remove the face cards from a deck of cards. Remember an Ace is the same as 1. Pass out all of the cards in the deck among all of the players. Each player flips over two cards at the same time and finds the sum. The one with the larger sum takes the cards. If the sums are the same, turn over 2 more cards. The player with the largest sum keeps all four cards.

2. Tens Go Fish

Remove the face cards from a deck of cards. Deal 5 cards to each player. Each player looks for cards that make a sum or difference of 10, and they draw new cards from the deck to replace them. Players take turns asking each other for a card that will make a sum or difference of 10 with a card from their hand. A player's turn is over when no more pairs can be made. The game is over when there are no more cards. Both players record their combinations of sums and differences for 10.

3. Close to 20

Remove the face cards from a deck of cards. Deal 3 cards to each player. Players select two cards with a sum closest to 10. Which player is closest to 10?

Example: You turn over the cards 5, 4, 3 and your opponent turns over an Ace, 8, and 3. You can make 9 (5 and 4) and your opponent can make 9 (Ace and 8) or 11 (8 and 3). It's a tie since you are both 1 away from 10!

4. Bowling for Addition

1. Cut wide bands out of the paper for each soda bottle, and number each one with different point values from 1 to 10.
2. Wrap one strip of paper around each bottle, and have your child tape it down for you.
3. Arrange the bottles in a triangular shape at the end of a long hallway or uncarpeted room, with one pin in the front, two behind it, three behind those and so on.
4. Divide a page in the notepad into columns, one for each player. Write each person's name at the top of the column so that you can keep score of everybody's points.
5. Now play! Take turns rolling the ball towards the pins and see how many you can knock over in one try! Count up the numbers on each pin that gets knocked over and recruit your child to help you keep score so he can practice his addition. Whoever gets the most points wins! Make some victory snacks to enjoy together when the game is over.
6. If you want to make the game a little more challenging, try filling the bottles with a small amount of sand so they're harder to knock over!

Other games to play:

Checkers, Memory, Chutes and Ladders, jigsaw puzzles, Parcheesi, Fish, Crazy Eights, Candy Land, Blink, Connect Four, Legos, K'Nex, Check out the PDF: [Making Math More Fun Board Games](#) that contains a variety of board games for different grade levels.

Math Pumpkin Fun

Objective: Children will measure each other's' height using pumpkins as units of measurement.

Materials:

12" rulers, tape measure, a couple of pumpkins (various sizes)

Procedure:

Select a couple of pumpkins. Ask children what time of year we usually see a lot of pumpkins and why. Brainstorm all of the possible uses for Note today we will have some fun using a pumpkin to measure our height. The children will fill in the blanks on the worksheet as the activity progresses. Ask the children to measure the pumpkin, height and width, with his or her 12" ruler. Discuss the limitations of using a ruler. Chat about alternative methods for measuring the pumpkin. Before measuring the next pumpkin ask the children to estimate the measurements. Record the height and width of the different pumpkins. Record the differences. Draw a graph to compare the differences.

Objective: Students will understand estimation through playing an interactive game as a family.

Materials:

pencils, paper, 4 or 5 pumpkins, string, masking tape, 12", rulers, tape measure

Procedure:

Ask children what it means to make a guess. Tell them that they will be playing a game where they have to guess, or estimate. Explain that they are going to have a pumpkin rolling contest where they will estimate the distance the pumpkin will travel with one big push. Demonstrate the action of rolling a big pumpkin with one big push. Using prior knowledge from the previous math activity, have children measure the length of their pumpkin with their ruler or tape measure and record it. Also, have children cut a piece of string the length of their pumpkin. Children are to discuss together, or "estimate" how many units, or strings lengths, their pumpkin will roll. They are then to figure how many inches that is, then record their estimates on paper. Have a child place a piece of masking tape where the pumpkin starts. Have another child push the pumpkin on your signal. Have another child mark with tape where the pumpkin stopped rolling. Children will then take their string to measure from one piece of tape to the next to determine how many units, or string lengths their pumpkin rolled. Discuss how far the pumpkins rolled in inches and record their findings. Chat about how far or close their guess, or estimation, was to the actual distance the pumpkin rolled.