



Making Math Matter

This tip sheet offers ideas from our professional teachers on ways to show your child that math matters.

One day, many math skills

- As you move about your day, talk about how math used in every day situations so your child comes to see that strong math skills are valuable.
- For breakfast, make a pancake recipe and ask your child to double it for you.
- Run some errands. Have your child navigate you to a familiar neighborhood place – Turn left, go three blocks, turn right and go one more block to get to my favorite park.
- On the way, make up a counting game. Assign each person a colour of car to count, and award one point per car. Then, make it more challenging. When you pass a car lot, add 100. When you go over a bridge, subtract 50. Let your child make up a math rule.
- Have your child estimate how long your activity will take and compare to the actual time.
- Stop and get some groceries. Estimate the total cost of the groceries in the cart and use the receipt to see the difference
- Encourage your child to estimate the cost if an item is marked 25 per cent off.
- Let your child pay with cash and have them calculate what bills and change to give.
- On the way home, look for and discuss geometric shapes in architecture and/or nature.
- Play a game at home. War-type card games can help teach place value, which is at the root of number sense and affects understanding of concepts such as rounding, estimating large numbers, comparing, and ordering.
- Ask your child to do the fractions to increase or decrease servings of a favourite recipe.



These suggestions are provided by Tammy Moore, a teacher who specializes in remedial learning at the non-profit READ Society. More tips at www.readsociety.bc.ca or by calling 250-388-7225.