

Keep Your Child's Math Skills Sharp This Summer

May 22nd, 2018

Dear parents,

It is hard to believe that another school year is almost over. Ideally, the learning is not! There are many ways that you can incorporate math activities into your summer routines. Doing so can show your child how math is relevant in everyday life and can provide a safe environment in which to try new things.

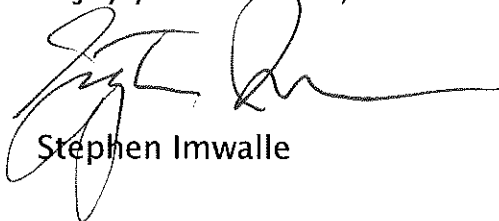
Numerous research studies show that students forget math during the summer and require class time the following year to relearn what they have forgotten. Consistent use of math during the summer can prevent or decrease summer "forgetfulness."

This summer, include your child in everyday math activities such as measurement, comparing costs, determining elapsed time, and weighing. Many suggestions follow, and this New York Times article, while dated, gives even more ideas: <http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/04/25/these-days-are-numbered-eight-summer-math-ideas/>

In addition, <http://www.beestar.org/index.jsp> provides free online math practice with performance reports and achievement recognition. I highly recommend the following site for multiplication training: <https://www.mathsisfun.com/numbers/math-trainer-multiply.html>

Please do also visit our 4th grade website to familiarize yourself with it as well as find additional links for further practice and review. As you routinely think math, you will come up with many more ideas on your own.

Enjoy your summer,



Stephen Imwalle

Geometry – Find examples of perpendicular lines, parallel lines, and geometric shapes; make pancakes or cookies in different shapes, build with blocks, play with spatial toys such as Legos and Magnetix

Weight – Estimate the weights of objects. Then actually weigh them on a kitchen scale or bathroom scale. Put the objects in ascending or descending order. How much do you weigh? How much do you weigh if you hold an item? How much does the item weigh? Which weighs more, a small bag of sugar or a larger bag of popped popcorn?

Measurement – Point out more and less, cook with measuring cups, measure distances and heights. Estimate.

Time – Tell time, use digital AND analog clocks, keep a chart of times spent in various activities, use a stop watch, talk about and calculate elapsed time.

Read **thermometers**.

Fractions – Let your child cook or play with measuring cups and beans or rice. Ask questions such as, “How many $\frac{1}{2}$ cups equal 1 cup? How many $\frac{1}{4}$ cups equal $\frac{3}{4}$? Would you like a $\frac{1}{2}$ sandwich that is a rectangle or a triangle? If you have 5 grapes and eat 1 of them, what fraction of your grapes have you eaten?”

Symmetry – Make paper airplanes, make paper hearts, glue half of a symmetrical magazine picture on a paper and ask your child to draw the missing half, look for symmetric shapes around the house, analyze the letters of the alphabet to find those that are symmetric.

Money – Count it. Use it. Count change in the store. Pose questions such as, “I have 3 coins in my hand. They are worth 76 cents. What coins do I have?”

Compare prices – Talk about why you buy what you do.

Look at **nutrition labels**. Talk about the percents, calories, number of servings in a container, etc..

Weigh produce in the grocery store.

Have your child watch the process at **checkout**.

Talk about **pounds and ounces** and that there are 16 ounces in a pound. Which has more potatoes, a 1 pound bag of little potatoes or a 1 pound bag of big potatoes?

Traveling – Talk as you plan. “It’s 3:15 now, and it takes us 30 minutes to get to the orthodontist’s office. Will we be there in time for your 4:00 appointment?”

“It is 5 miles to the gym and then 3 miles from there to the grocery store, so we are going to drive 8 miles altogether.”

Read airplane or public transportation **schedules**. Figure out **elapsed times**.

Talk about **how long** you have already traveled (in distance or time) and figure out how many more miles or minutes it should be before you reach your destination.

Use the numbers on a license plate to make the largest or smallest possible number.

Read the **odometer**.

Calculate **mileage** and **miles per gallon**.

“If gas costs \$3.75 per gallon, how much will 10 gallons **cost**? 20 gallons?”
Estimate and **round**, too.

Look for **patterns** in the environment. Where do you see patterns? How are patterns made? How do they use shape, color, size, position, or quantity? Can you find patterns in the music you hear or in the stories you read or tell? Can you find a rule that matches the pattern?

Find math in the **books** that you read.

Talk about, compare, and analyze **sports stats**.

Incorporate math into your **gardening** – area, perimeter, volume, measurement, counting and weighing produce, etc...

Play math **games**. Solve brain teasers and logic problems.

Use the following **web sites** and **apps**, as well as any others that you find. I will post a pdf copy of this letter which should allow you to click directly on the links provided. Please check our fourth grade class website for details!