

# Math Skills for Everyday

Connect math to the real world: use everyday chores and happenings to show your child how you use math.

## AT HOME:

- Have your child help you make a favorite recipe and let him do the measuring. Next time ask him to help you double the recipe and talk about how important using fractions is in cooking.

- Use paper napkins to talk about fractions. Fold napkins into halves, fourths, eighths, and sixteenths, using marking pens to label the fractions.

- Use paper napkins to talk about shapes by folding them into squares, rectangles, and triangles. Ask your child to set the table and fold the napkins in a special way.

- Estimate how much things weigh and then check it out on the bathroom scale. Does a cup of water weigh more or less than a cup of flour, a cup of rice or beans, a cup of tacks or nails? Who weighs more, the dog or the cat? How can I find out the cat's weight while holding it?

- Use cards to teach numbers, the sequence of numbers, how to match pairs of numbers, and which numbers are less than or greater than other numbers.

- Guess how tall people or household objects (doors, windows, rugs) are and then use a ruler and tape measure to see who is closest in estimating the size.

## AT THE STORE:

- Help your child pick six oranges or apples and see how much they weigh. Help him estimate the cost and then use the scale to see how close he came.

- Have your child pick a special dish to make and help him list what has to be bought at the store. Have him find the ingredients, estimate how much they will cost, and see how close the estimate was to the total on the checkout tape.

- Show your child how much gas costs at different stations, how many gallons you have to buy, and then how much you can get for \$5.00 or \$10.00. Figure the miles per gallon your car gets in town or if you take a trip.

- Help your child measure himself for clothes and find the sizes he will need at the store. Have him find which store ads show the best prices for favorite shoes or pants.

## IN THE CAR

- Using maps of your area, help your child find the safest way to school and chart the way to the library or the shopping center. Plan a special outing to the museum, the beach, or the park and have your child show the way on the map. Estimate the distance and then check to see how close you came.

- On a trip, use the map and highway signs to figure the distance from point to point: also, check the speed limit signs and see what the speedometer reads. Count the number of certain cars or trucks, and count to see which colors are used more than others, etc.

California State PTA: Parents Teach Math Too  
*Parents Empowering Parents*

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## Curl Up With a Good Math Book

*When one cat woke up: A Cat Counting Book*, by Judy Astley, 1990, New York: Dial. Ages 2-6

*Eye Count: A Book of Counting Puzzles*, by Linda Bourke, 1995, San Francisco: Chronicle. Ages 6-Adult

*Seven Blind Mice* by Ed Young, 1992, New York: Philomel Ages 5-10

*One Hundred Hungry Ants* by Elinor J. Pinczes, 1993, Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Ages 7-10

*Anno's Mysterious Multiplying Jar* by Mitsumasa Anno, 1983, New York: Philomel. Ages 8-Adult

*One Million* by Hendrik Hertzberg, 1993, New York: Times Books. Ages 5-10

*Nine O'clock Lullaby* by Marilyn Singer, 1991, New York: Harper Collins Ages 7-12

*Ancient Puzzles: Classic Brainteasers and Other Timeless Mathematical Games of the Last 10 Centuries* by Dominic Olivastro, 1993, New York: Bantam. Ages 10-Adult

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