




Parents Matter

February 2013



Title 1: Parents,
Teachers, and
Students working
together to achieve
more!

Naumann Elementary School's
Title I Parent Newsletter



Math Magic! Mystify your Friends!

What's Your Favorite Number?

Ask someone his/her favorite number between 1 and 9. Then multiply his/her favorite number by 9.

Multiply that answer by 12345679.

If you multiply correctly, your friend will be amazed to see his/her favorite number repeated over and over!

Teach Your Child the Importance of Math

Math is around us all the time. And in today's high-tech society, everyone needs a strong foundation in math to be successful. Workers need quick reasoning and problem-solving skills. They need to estimate and use mathematical thinking.

Even calculators and computers, which some people said would make math outdated, require people to have good math skills. In fact, because calculators are only as accurate as the people operating them, these machines make it even more important for people to have strong mental math skills so they can tell quickly if the answer is close to correct.

Sometimes, children don't see how useful math can be. Parents can help. When you or your child use math in your everyday activities, point it out. Did he glance at the clock to see how many minutes remain before his favorite TV show? That's math. Did he figure how many weeks' allowance it will take before he can buy a new video game? That's math, too.

Math Tips for Parents

Be positive about math!

- Let your child know that **everyone** can learn math.
- Let your child know that **you** think math is **important** and **fun**.
- Point out the ways in which different family members use math in their **jobs**.
- Be **positive** about your own math abilities. Try to avoid saying "I was never good at math" or "I never liked math".
- Encourage your child to be **persistent** if a problem seems difficult.
- Praise your child when he or she makes an **effort**, and share in the excitement when he or she solves a problem or understands something for the first time.
- **Encourage** your child to tell or show you how he or she uses math in everyday life.
- **Include** your child in everyday activities that involve math – making **purchases**, measuring **ingredients**, counting out **plates** and **utensils** for dinner.
- Play **games** and do **puzzles** with your child that involve math. They may focus on direction, time, logic and reasoning, sorting, or estimating.
- When your child is trying to solve a problem, ask what he or she is **thinking**. If your child seems puzzled, ask him or her to tell you what doesn't make sense. (Talking about their ideas and how they reach solutions helps children learn to **reason** mathematically.)
- Suggest that your child **act out** a problem to solve it. Have your child show how he or she reached a conclusion by **drawing pictures** and **moving objects** as well as by using words.
- Treat errors as **opportunities** to help your child learn something new.

From greatschools.org

Math Around the House

Did you know that there are math tools in your house? Listed below are just some of the items you may have in your home that your child can use for counting and problem solving!

- Calculators
- Egg Cartons
- Beans
- Marbles
- Paperclips
- Cars and trucks (great for multiplying the wheels by 4!)
- Buttons
- Dolls
- Shoes (great for adding and multiplying by 2!)
- Pie and pizza (fractions!)



Board Games that Promote Mathematical Thinking!

Chutes and Ladders
Monopoly
Connect Four
Battleship

Mastermind
Clue
Card Games
Dice Games

Questions? Comments?

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