



Tips for Involved Parents and Students

Parents and other caring adults can make a difference in a child's academic achievement... just by being there and being involved. In fact, parents are a child's first and best teachers. Here are just a few tips to help you get involved in your child's learning— and boost math skills— at home...

Time:

- Have at least one analog clock (with a standard clock face) available in your home. Ask your child to tell you the time throughout the day.
- Ask your child the following types of questions:
 - “To get to the PTA program, we need to leave at 6:15. How long before we need to leave?”
 - “We got to the park at 2:30. How long have we been at the park?”
 - “It takes 15 minutes to get to the soccer field. Practice starts at 5:30. When do we need to leave?”

Money:

- **Have your child pay for a purchase at the store.** Have him count out the money to give to the cashier and have him count his change.
- **Empty a pocketful of change and have your child...**
 - identify and group the coins;
 - count the change;
 - make different combinations of the same amount of money.



Fractions:

- **Cooking with your child is a great way to work with fractional amounts.** For instance, double or half recipes to add and subtract fractions.

Boost math skills for your elementary school student with at-home fun

- Discuss the fractional portions as you fold laundry, especially towels and sheets.

Basic Facts:

- Keep flashcards in your car or purse and practice wherever you are.
- Restaurants are a great place to practice mental math and estimation skills by adding up the bill and practicing percentages by figuring out the tip.
- In your car, while you're standing in line, when you're cooking dinner... call out numbers and ask your child to add them, subtract them, multiply them, or divide them.
- Give your child three numbers and ask her to tell you the addition/subtraction fact family or the multiplication/division fact family to which they belong.
- Practice giving a string of numbers to compute, such as $3 + 2$, $\times 4$, $- 6$, $+ 8$, $\times 2$. What's the number?

Games for Basic Facts:

Click on these games for instructions:

- [Addition War](#) and [Multiplication War](#)
- [Salute](#)
- [24 with playing cards](#)
- [Concentration](#) (for number recognition)

Tips contributed by Lynn DiCarlo and Elizabeth Rioux of Corley Elementary.

