



WHAT WAS MY CHILD LEARNING IN KINDERGARTEN?

- “Counting on” (counting without starting at 1) and “skip counting” (count by 2s, 5s, 10s)
- Accurately counting and comparing quantities of two groups of objects
- Using strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems
- Recognizing common shapes and identifying their attributes (e.g., squares have 4 sides and 4 angles)
- Identifying the smallest unit of a pattern (e.g., in an ABBABB pattern, a child can identify ABB as the smallest repeating unit)
- Giving and following directions for moving in physical space

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS MY CHILD WILL BE LEARNING IN FIRST GRADE?

- Counting forward by 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s to determine the total number of objects in a collection
- Counting backward by 1s when given any number between 1 and 30
- Grouping a collection into tens and ones and writing the corresponding numeral
- Creating and solving single step story and picture problems using addition and subtraction within 20
- Determining the value of a collection of like coins (pennies, nickels, or dimes) whose value is 100 cents or less

How can I help my child continue to build their math skills over the summer?

You can help your child practice their math skills by providing opportunities to apply them in “real life” situations. Below are just a few fun ways that you can do this!

Math on the Beach or in the Backyard: Write the numbers 1 to 20 on a beach ball or other large ball. Toss the ball back and forth and then add or subtract the two numbers the player’s hands are touching. For example, if your child’s hands are touching 15 and 6, ask them to add together 15 plus 6 *and* then subtract 15 minus 6, for more challenge.
(Source: Today’s Parent; <https://www.todayparent.com/kids/school-age/summer-math-games/>)

Skip Counting Hopscotch: Draw a large hopscotch board using sidewalk chalk. Write numbers in the squares, but instead of going to 10, like regular hopscotch, extend the numbers to 20, 30, etc. You can ask your child to skip count to where their stone lands on the board by 2s, 5s, or 10s!
(Source: Math Geek Mama; <https://mathgeekmama.com/skip-counting-hopscotch/>)

Go on a Scavenger Hunt: Have your child gather items that they find in nature, at the park, beach or backyard. Encourage your child to sort their items by two attributes, such as shape *and* color or texture *and* size.
(Source: PBS Parents; <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/math/math-tips-for-parents/summer-math/>)

Rainy Day Baking: Baking with your child is a great way to practice many math skills. When measuring out different ingredients, ask your child which is more or less and how can they tell? When finished, encourage them to share the baked goodies fairly among family and friends. For example, “we have 15 cookies, there are 4 of us and everyone needs to have the same number, can you share them fairly?” This is challenging because they will need to recognize that in order for everyone to have the same number of cookies, there will be some leftover.

Supermarket Fun: The next time you’re at the grocery store and your child picks out a special treat, maybe a lollipop that costs 0.75 cents, ask them to count out the change using pennies, nickels or dimes.