Math is Everywhere!

This is a great time to reinforce your student's understanding that math is everywhere! Here are some ideas to support that concept.

K-2 Ideas

- Count Everything: Counting is a powerful activity that students can do anywhere.
- Look for real life word problems involving addition and subtraction in everyday life. Examples: "*How many crackers do you have on your plate? If you eat 5 crackers, how many do you have left?*"; "*Your box of crayons says it has 64 crayons. How many are you using for your picture? How many are still in the box?*" Problems should range within 10 for PreK & K, within 20 for Gr 1 and within 100 for Gr 2
- Count in different ways, by 2's, 5's, 10's. Start counting from different numbers, not just at zero. Celebrate landmark numbers – Clap or jump when you get to multiples of 10 like 10, 20, 30 etc.
- Play store! Count while you stock shelves or exchange and count pretend money.
- Talk about Shapes: Find, classify and sort shapes in your home. How many circles can you find, how many rectangles – and how many of those are squares.
- Measure everything. Use nonstandard tools like a shoe or even your hand to measure how tall a table is or how far you can jump.
- Point out fractions – share things - like a can of soup - between people. Each person gets a 1/2 or 1/3. Note how this new kind of number is less than one but more than none!
- Read Stories! Mathematize reading time. Most children's books are ripe with opportunities to notice shapes, count objects, compare two things, notice how things change and grow, and to make predictions about what is going to happen based on the information we already have!
- Look at coins and determine how old they are using the date. Sort them from oldest to newest coin. If you have a large collection of coins arrange them into a bar graph based on year or the location, they were minted. What is the most common date or location?

3-5 Ideas

- Mathematize reading time. Most children's books have opportunities to notice shapes, count objects, compare two things, notice how things change and grow, and to make predictions based upon the information they already have.
- Count in different ways! Try counting with your student by 5s, 10s, 25s, 50s, 100s and/or fourths, halves, eighths and tenths.
- Look for real life "problems" involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division throughout your day. Examples: "T*he four of us want to share 3 brownies. How much should each get so everyone gets the same amount?*"; "*We are a family of 6 and we only have 4 bottles of soda. How much soda should each get so everyone gets the same amount?*"
- Count things (see Counting Collections below) and use the count to generalize to larger sets. If your student knows how many students are in their class, can they use that to estimate how many are in their grade? Their school?
- Predict how many … forks you all will need to eat a meal together, what if you thought about a whole week, then how many would you need? Ask how they know and listen for the logic in their answers.
- Involve your student(s) in cooking. They can count ingredients, determine the amount of the ingredients if the recipe is doubled, determine which ingredient has the most or the least.
- Measure, count and record. Predict and then count how many jumping jacks or push-ups can be done in 1 minute, or how long it takes to do 10 or 20. Using the stop watch app on your phone, time and see how close you were to your prediction.
- Build something together. Big or small, any project that involves measuring includes counting, adding and multiplying.
- Spare change lying around? Look at some coins and sort them from oldest to newest coin. Find the difference between the oldest and newest. If you have a large collection of coins, arrange them into a bar graph based on the year they were minted.