**Math Activities Around the House**

**Everyday Math Ideas for Home**

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If your child is having trouble with math or is [experiencing math anxiety](http://childparenting.about.com/od/schoollearning/a/What-Is-Math-Anxiety-And-How-Can-You-Help-A-Child-Who-Has-It.htm), one of the better ways to combat it is to find math activities for home.

Just as there are [creative and sneaky ways to get kids reading,](http://kidsactivities.about.com/od/ReadingandWriting/a/Ways-To-Get-Kids-Reading.htm) there are also ways to sneak math into your child’s day without making it obvious. From dinnertime to playtime, opportunities to practice math pop up all over the house.

**Board Game Math**

If you haven’t instituted a family game night yet, now might be the time to do it. [Family-oriented board games](http://boardgames.about.com/od/toppicks/tp/familygathering.htm) are not only a good way to spend some time together as a family, but also a great way to sneak in some math skills without being really obvious about it. Your child will be having so much fun, she may not notice she’s practicing the following skills:

* **One-to-One Correspondence/Number Sense:** Basically, one-to-one correspondence means your child is able to count a set number of items, using numerals to name them. Board games that use dice to dole out the number of spaces your token travels on the board helps these skills. Your child will have to count the number of dots on the dice and then be able to move the same number of spaces on the board.
* **Patterns and Operational Math:** The board game, [Connect Four](http://boardgames.about.com/od/strategygames/a/How-To-Win-At-Connect-4.htm)is a good game to help your budding mathematician notice patterns. As your child gets a little more sophisticated, it may be time to move to a more complex game like [Yahtzee](http://boardgames.about.com/od/gamehistories/p/yahtzee.htm). Although the rules are a little complicated, the dice game provides opportunity for your child to work on addition, estimation and to [start](http://kidsactivities.about.com/od/EverydayMathandScience/a/Math-Activities-Around-The-House.htm) recognizing the number patterns formed by the rolls of the dice.
* [**Money**](http://kidsactivities.about.com/od/EverydayMathandScience/a/Math-Activities-Around-The-House.htm) **Sense:** Any board game that requires a banker is a good one to use to practice sense (and honesty, too!). The next time you play [Monopoly](http://kidsactivities.about.com/od/EverydayMathandScience/a/Math-Activities-Around-The-House.htm) or Operation, make your child the banker, giving her the chance to hone her change-making skills.

**Card Game Math**

If you’re not a family that enjoys board games, but likes to play card games, there are even more ways to add some math to your game night. Your child may not be ready to [start](http://kidsactivities.about.com/od/EverydayMathandScience/a/Math-Activities-Around-The-House.htm) counting cards in high-stakes games, but she will be able to practice some other skills.

* **Number Sense:** Basic number sense, the ability to visualize how many 6 is or what a group of 4 looks like, can be helped simply by examining a deck of cards. Try taking out the face cards (Queen, King, Jack, Ace and Joker) and using the other cards as a tool. Your child can count the number of items on the card to match it to the numeral in the corners.
* **Matching and Patterns:** There are a number of [family-friendly card games](http://boardgames.about.com/od/cardgames/tp/best_childrens_card_games.htm) that help your child learn matching and patterns. Among them are: Concentration, Snap, Go Fish and Old Maid.
* **Estimation and Addition:** Once your child is a little more mature, playing card games like [Blackjack](http://casinogambling.about.com/od/strategyandsystems/a/Five-Keys-To-Winning-Blackjack-Strategy.htm) can help with addition and estimation skills. Once you've removed the face cards, you can play a basic game to see if your child is able to add her cards, know when to ask for more and when to stay her hand.

**Dinner Time (Pizza) Math**

Pizza night is a always a happy night at our house anyway. Usually it means nobody had to cook and everybody is happy with what we are eating. It’s the perfect time to sneak in some math activities and the perfect food with which to do it. Here are just a few pizza math skills:

* **Fractions:** Pizza is already set up to teach fractions, as it is a whole circle cut into a number of different slices. You can teach your child that all those slices add up to one whole, or that 6 out 6 pieces is equal to 1. After she understands that, you work on how much of the fraction her brother is eating if he eats two pieces. (2 out of 6 is 2/6 or 1/ 3 of the pizza.
* **Operational Math:** If your child isn't ready to work on fractions, you can still use pizza to practice basic addition and subtraction skills. Assuming her brother still eats two pieces, you can set up a word problem, like: *If the pizza has 6 pieces and your brother eats 2, how many are left?* or *If I ordered another pizza with 8 slices, how many pieces would we have altogether?*