

Math Empowers For Parents

New York Times Article

“5 Ways to Help Your Kids Not Stink at Math”

In the July 2014 New York Times article, Elizabeth Green discusses ways to support your child's mathematics skills and understanding that they need for the 21st century.

- Have your child explain her or his thinking and to listen to what mistakes your child is making rather than correcting mistakes.
- Do the everyday math you do out loud so that your child can hear your think and see how math is used in the real world. Using
- Use pictures to represent the problem's including using dot representations of arrays, helps to develop the understanding behind the algorithms.
- Combine memorization and understanding, making each one stronger.
- Introduce complex ideas earlier by asking questions to promote thinking.

For more about how to support your child's learning, read the full article at <http://mobile.nytimes.com/blogs/parenting/2014/07/23/5-ways-to-help-your-kid-not-stink-at-math/?referrer=>

Math Toolbox

Turning a Family Favorite into Family Math Time

War is a classic game children have played for generations. Below are a few adaptations of this classic game to reinforce math skills for children in grades 3 through 5. All you need is a regular deck of cards. Deal out the cards evenly between game participants. Aces represent one and face cards are ten. Play one of these versions:

- **Subtraction War:** Follow the directions for War with each player turning over two cards and finding the difference between them. The biggest difference wins. Encourage subtraction strategies including counting up, making tens, and using addition facts.
- **Multiplication Double War:** Follow the directions for War with each player turning over two cards at a time. Multiply the two numbers and the largest product wins. For a student just learning multiplication facts, use two decks of cards and start with the easiest fact families first, gradually adding the larger numbers.
- **Fraction War:** Each player turns over 2 cards at once and tries to make the largest fraction by laying the cards vertically. For example with a 3 and 5, you can make $\frac{3}{5}$ or $\frac{5}{3}$; if the other person has a 2 and 8, the fraction could be $\frac{2}{8}$ or $\frac{8}{2}$. Variations: only allow fractions less than one or use three cards at a time and create mixed numerals.

Technology Corner: Best Websites and Apps

Sheppard Software - <http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/math.htm>

This website offers a range of games and activities for preschoolers to middle school. The engaging games practice thinking skills related to computation, number sense, and problem solving.

Math Slide (iPad and iPhone app) – This free one or more player game is great for multiplication fact practice at different levels using picture models and equations.



Who to follow on twitter

@BedtimeMath – Daily

problem solving activities for preschoolers to fifth grade.

@pbsparents – Follow PBS

Parents for great tips and activities to support your child's learning.



PUMPKIN MATH

PBS has great ideas to use pumpkins to discuss mathematics with you child. Whether you are baking a pie or carving a jack-'o'-lantern, check out these great ideas for Pumpkin Math Family Time.

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/math/activities/first-second-grade/pumpkin-math/>

Mathical

Books for Kids from Tots to Teens

The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) is an organization that researches and promotes

appreciation for mathematics. They created the Mathical, a new youth book prize for math-related fiction and non-fiction. For a complete list of the 2015 award winners, including the grades 3-6 winner, *Really Big Numbers* by Richard Evan Schwartz, visit the Mathical web site at <http://mathicalbooks.org>.

