Math on the Go

In this busy world, we spend a lot of time in transit. These are some projects to try while you are going from place to place.

Remember the object is to have fun!

While you’re moving, have your children keep their eyes open for:
* street and building numbers;
* phone numbers on the sides of taxis and trucks;
* dates on buildings and monuments; and
* business names that have numbers in them.

Number Search

The object is to look for numbers around you: on cars, buses, subways, and on foot.

Locate numbers 1 through 10 in sequence on cars, signs, and buildings.

License Plates

License plates have numbers and are fun to use to play games while on the go.

Find license plates and have your child read their numbers. Is the number less than, greater than, or equal to yours?

These activities encourage reading, recognizing numbers, noticing symbols, writing, counting, and graphing.
Total It

This is a good game for practicing quick mental computation and for the older brother or sister!

Call out the numbers on the license plate and add them up.
The problem solving and computation going on in your child’s head is very important. It helps your child be creative with numbers.

Guess If You Can

Let your child think of a number between 1 and 10 while you try to guess the number by asking questions. Here is a sample conversation.

Child: I am thinking of a number between 1 and 10.
Parent: Is it more than 8?
Child: No.
Parent: Is it an even number?
Child: No.
Parent: Is it more than 2 but less than 10?
Child: Yes.

And so on...
The questions asked demonstrate many different levels of math. They can serve as learning tools for explaining concepts. For example, you can take the opportunity to explain what an even number is if your child does not know.

When children practice asking questions about numbers, they can develop an understanding of the characteristics and meanings of numbers.

For more information contact:

A project of The Florida Partnership for Parent Involvement
Center of Excellence ● Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute ● Florida’s Children’s Forum
Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters ● Hillsborough County Head Start ● Hillsborough County Even Start
The Center for Parent Involvement (FCPI) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education; Goals 2000, Educate America Act from 1994-1999. Guided by an advisory board of parents and professionals, the FCPI’s goal was to tap the power of parents.

The FCPI gathered information on parent needs, coordinated the information, and created a series of resources organized by theme, including fact sheets for parents and professionals, “Beyond the Basics” resources, and resource identification lists. Many of the resources have been translated into Spanish language versions, and every effort has been made to preserve the meaning and flavor of the original English documents. This series of materials provides a wealth of current information for both parents and providers; the complete set of resources can be obtained in PDF format on the Department of Child and Family Studies Website at www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi. The staff of the FCPI are hopeful that their work will continue to help children get ready to learn for many years to come.

The series’ themes include:
• Family Empowerment
• Parent Involvement
• Parenting Support
• School Readiness
• Violence in the Lives of Children
• Transition to Kindergarten

The Center was one component of a project led by Hillsborough County Center of Excellence in collaboration with the Department of Child & Family Studies at USF's de la Parte Institute and the Florida Children’s Forum. Other project partners include HIPPY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters), Hillsborough County Head Start and Hillsborough County Even Start. For more information about these projects, call 813.974.4612.

School Readiness Series, Parent Tip Sheets, #19: Math on the move...

© 1999, Tampa, Florida