

# HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD WITH MATH?

The best ways for parents to help their children with math is to find ways that make the use of numbers commonplace. The following are a few ways and places where your children can see that using numbers is part of their everyday lives.

## GAMES: MAKING MATH FUN

1. **Letter Values** - A=1, B=2, C=3, . . . Z=26; so DAY =  $4 + 1 + 25 = 30$   
Try finding the value of family names, states, countries. Set a goal of finding the most valuable or inexpensive words.
2. **Skip Counting** - by 2's, 3's, 4's, 5's and 10's. Reinforces number patterns and multiplication.
3. **License Plates** - Ordering digits on a license plate  
Reading numbers on a license plate.  
Adding digits - next car on right vs. next car on left  
Multiply last two digits  
Subtract last two digits from first two or vice versa  
Value of Vanity Plates using Letter Values (#1 above)  
Keep track of out of state license plates. Use a map to check them off.

## COMPUTING: REINFORCING BASIC SKILLS

1. **McDonalds** - cost of meal, change for \$5 or \$10  
How many Big Macs for \$10; French fries for \$5?  
How big is 35 Billion?
2. **Gas Station** - Odometer for reading numbers, calculating distance  
Miles per gallon; Gallons per week, year
3. **Recipes** - 1/2 the recipe, triple the recipe - how much of each ingredient?  
Teaspoons, Tablespoons, ounces, quarts, gallons
4. **Sports Page** - Scores, points, averages
5. **Banks** - Deposits, withdrawals, interest.  
Saving for an item. How long will it take if you save \$1/week?
6. **Menus** - ordering meals, figuring checks, tips.
7. **Time** - 1 1/2 hours from now, 15 minutes ago

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