



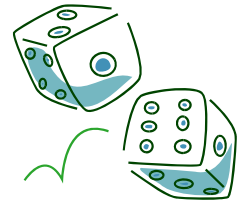
Math: It's all fun and games

Children learn through play. Using games to help them practice their math skills is a great strategy to sneak in some skill-boosting. Here are some ideas from our professional teachers.

First, set the ground rules

Have confidence in your child's math skills, start by keeping a positive attitude about math and believe in their ability to learn math.

- A good way to learn is to teach what you know so encourage your children to teach you to play the math games they learn at school.
- Card and dice games are multi-sensory. The children touch, see, and hear the action while thinking and talking math strategy.
- Games do not always have a winner. Roll two 12-sided dice to practice multiplication facts for a few minutes each day.
- Unique dice are appealing to children, sparking imaginations to create original games.



Now, break the rules

You and your child can invent new games by changing the rules:

- Go from finish to start (counting backwards).
- Instead of multiplying to create the largest product, divide with the winner having the smallest remainder.

Play, play again

Drills are important in helping children practice their math skills. You can help make it fun by playing War-type card games.

- Mix it up by playing for the biggest number, largest sum, greatest product, et cetera.
- Try some commercially-produced games like Uno[®] or Yahtzee[®].
- Skip count: count by threes, fours and sixes.

These suggestions are provided by Tammy Moore, a teacher who specializes in remedial learning at the non-profit READ Society. More tips at www.readsociety.b.c.ca or by calling 250-388-7225.