

Math Games

Playing math games with your children is a great way to help them practice skills needed for school. Plus, it can be fun! Try the following at home:

Is is a 12?

Recommended for: Little mathematicians learning addition, and functions such as: greater than, less than, and equal to.

You need: A deck of playing cards, a partner, and paper

Directions: Use only the ace (A), 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 cards (40 cards total).



1. Shuffle the deck and deal all cards so that you and your child have the same number of cards. Each player keeps the cards in a pile, face down.
2. Each player turns over the top card. Together, add the two numbers aloud. Remember that Ace = 1. Together, decide if the total is less than 12, exactly 12 (equal to 12), or greater than 12.
3. Help your child record the results on the paper like this:

Less than 12

$$4 + 2 = 6$$

Exactly 12 (Equal to 12)

$$5 + 7 = 12$$

Greater than 12

$$10 + 3 = 13$$

4. Continue doing this for all the cards.
5. Together, count how many times the sums were less than 12, exactly/equal to 12, or greater than 12.

ADAPTATION FOR MORE ADVANCED MATHEMATICIANS: You can change the categories to "Less than 50", "Exactly 50", and "Greater than 50." Then, instead of adding the two cards, have your child multiply them. For example, if he flips over a "4" and a "10", $4 \times 10 = 40$. That equation would be written in the "Less than 50" category.

Adapted from www.riverdale.k12.or.us/ktonning/00_01/math/addition.htm



Bears in a Cave:

Recommended for: Little mathematicians learning subtraction

You need: A cup or bowl (not transparent), 20 objects to act as "bears" (beans, crayons, etc.), paper, and a partner.

Directions: This is a pretending game. You and your child will pretend that the objects are bears, and the cup or bowl when placed upside down, is a cave.

1. Choose a number to work with. For beginning mathematicians, choose a number 0-5. For practicing mathematicians, choose a number 5-10 and for more experienced mathematicians, choose a number 10-20.
2. Have your child close his/her eyes. Put some "bears" into the "cave" and leave the others out.
3. When your child opens his/her eyes, s/he should look at the number of "bears" that are left out and then figure out how many are in the "cave."
4. Then lift the cave so you and your child can check the answer. Write out the equation (for example, $2 + 5 = 7$ or $7 - 2 = 5$.)
5. Let your child have a turn at "hiding the bears!"

Adapted from www.riverdale.k12.or.us/ktonning/00_01/math/subtraction.htm

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