MATH AT HOME

Practical Strategies for Early Elementary Families

Home & School Connection
Focus: Early Numeracy & Reasoning

Dear Families, Mathematics is all around us! You don't need special workbooks or flashcards to help your child grow as a mathematician. Below are key concepts and easy everyday activities to support your child's learning at home based on our current classroom units.

Kindergarten: Early Numeracy & Combinations to 5

Unit 4 Focus

Key Skills to Practice:

- **Counting Objects:** Practice counting real-world items up to 30 with 1-to-1 correspondence (touching each item once).
- **Using 5 as a Benchmark:** Help children see how numbers are composed (e.g., 5 can be made of 3 and 2, or 4 and 1).
- **Story Contexts:** Solve simple joining and separating story problems up to 5 by acting them out or drawing.

Try This at Home: Shake and Spill
Put 5 small two-sided items (like coins or colored buttons) into a cup. Shake and spill them onto a table. Ask your child: *"How many landed heads up? How many tails up? How many altogether?"* Have them use words like *"3 and 2 make 5."*

Grade 1: Place Value, Coins & Measurement

Unit 5 Focus

Key Skills to Practice:

- **Tens and Ones (Unitizing):** Group collections up to 100 into bundles of ten and leftover ones (e.g., 4 tens and 7 ones is 47).
- **Coin Values & Skip Counting:** Identify pennies, nickels, and dimes. Practice skip counting by 5s and 10s to count like coins up to 100 cents.
- **Nonstandard Measurement:** Compare lengths, weights, or volumes using household tools (like paperclips or blocks laid end-to-end).

Try This at Home: Coin Sorting & Trading
Gather a handful of pennies, nickels, and dimes. Have your child sort them by attributes and practice trading 5 pennies for 1 nickel or 10 pennies for 1 dime. Skip count together by 5s or 10s to find the total value!

Grade 2: 2-Digit Addition/Subtraction & Equality

Unit 4 Focus

Key Skills to Practice:

- **Flexible Addition/Subtraction:** Add and subtract 2-digit numbers (within 100) using strategies like "Jump" (tens then ones) or "Split" (tens with tens, ones with ones).
- **Understanding Equality (= and ≠):** Practice recognizing that the equal sign means balance on both sides (e.g., $3 + 5 = 10 - 2$).
- **Estimation:** Ask your child to estimate whether a sum or difference is more or less than 50 or 100 before solving.

Try This at Home: Balance the Equation
Write incomplete equations like $4 + ___ = 12 - 2$. Have your child use counters or draw a balance scale to show that both sides equal 10.