

Math with Your Second Grader

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You are your child's first and most important teacher. You can help your child be successful by talking about math in your daily life, helping with homework, and choosing activities like games and puzzles that help children practice basic skills. When talking about math, make sure your child can tell that you think math is useful, important, accessible, and interesting.

Math in Family Life

By the end of second grade, children should be able to read and write numbers to 1000, recall basic addition and subtraction facts to 20, add and subtract 2-digit numbers, tell time to the minute, measure length, and find the value of mixed coins up to \$1. The examples below might give you some ideas about how to practice these and other important skills with your second grader as you go about your daily life.

At Home

- Use the calendar to count up to or back from a special day, like a birthday or holiday. (*Your birthday is on the 17th of April. Today is the 23rd of March. How many days until your birthday?*)
- When counting large numbers of things, help your child count the objects in groups of 2, 5, or 10.
- Ask your child to read the clock, especially one with hands. (*We need to leave at 2. What time is it now?*)
- Ask your child to help measure length for household projects. (*We need a new rug for the living room. Let's use this tape measure to see how long and how wide it could be.*)

At the Store

- Ask your child to help find the coins you need to pay.
- With small shopping trips, tell your child how much money you want to spend and then invite him or her to keep track of what you are buying to make sure you stay within budget.
- Pose problems about what you are buying, and ask your child to do the same. (*I picked out 9 oranges and you picked out 7 oranges. How many do we have altogether?* or *We have 9 apples. We need 14 altogether. How many more do we need?*)
- Ask your child to use packages to start thinking about multiplication. (*If we get 3 six-packs of soda, how many cans of soda will we have?*)

On the Go

- Talk about the time it takes to get somewhere or the times on bus or train schedules. (*It's 3:05. The bus is supposed to come at 3:23. How many minutes will we have to wait?*)
- Ask your child to help make change for the bus, train, or subway. (*You need \$1.65 for the bus. You have \$1.25 so far. How much more money do you need? Which coins would make that much money?*)

Math Materials to Have at Home

Keep these items in your home and help your child use them.

- calculator
- ruler
- measuring tape
- calendar
- clock with hands
- measuring cups
- measuring spoons
- real money: many coins and bills of different amounts

Games That Use Math

Playing games together is a relaxed and effective way to improve students' basic skills. The following games are appropriate for second graders.

- Monopoly
- Battleship
- UNO
- Yahtzee
- Mastermind
- Parcheesi
- Sorry!
- checkers
- Chinese checkers