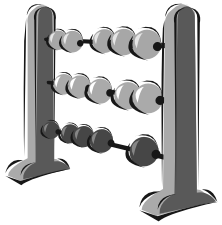




MATH IS EVERYWHERE!

Math is everywhere and yet, we may not recognize it because it doesn't look like the math we did in school. You may be asking yourself, "How is math everywhere in my life?"

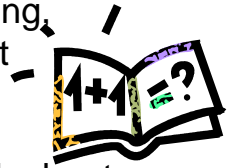
Math is in your life from the time you wake until the time you go to sleep. You are using math each time you set your alarm, buy groceries, cook, keep score or time at an athletic event, wallpaper a room, decide what type of tennis shoe to buy, or wrap a present.



"Mathematics"—the subject that incorporates numbers, shapes, patterns, estimation, and measurement, and the concepts that relate to them. You probably remember studying "arithmetic"—adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing—when you were in elementary school. Now, children are starting right away to learn about the broad ideas associated with math, including problem solving, communicating mathematically, and reasoning.

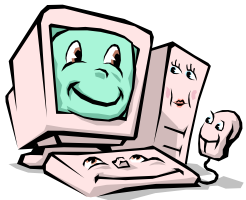


You and your child can enjoy many learning experiences. For example, together you can sort socks on laundry day. Sorting is a major function in math and sciences. You can cook a meal together. Cooking involves not only math and science but good health as well. Experiences in gathering, organizing, displaying and interpreting data are among the earliest applications of statistics.



If you feel uncomfortable about math, here are some ideas to think about.

Math is a very important skill. It is important for you to encourage your children to think of themselves as mathematicians who can reason and solve problems.



Calculators and computers require us to be equally strong in math. Their presence does not mean there is less need for knowing math. Calculators demand that people have strong mental math skills—that they can do math in their heads. A calculator is only as accurate as the person putting in the numbers. It can compute; it cannot think! We must know what answers are reasonable and what answers are outrageously large or small. Your children must be the thinkers!



Positive attitudes about math are important. The United States is the only advanced industrial nation where people are quick to admit, "I am not good in math." We need to change this attitude, because mathematicians are a key to our future.