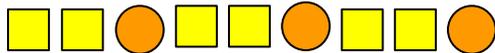


Home Connections in Mathematics: March 2019

Home Time Math is Bonding Time

We know time at home is precious after the school day is over. Inserting purposeful math activities while going about your daily routines provide children with the understanding that math is a useful skill and that you value education. Also, this time together allows you to learn about the math skills your child knows and is learning at school. Research shows that strong parental involvement improves student achievement in school. Here are a few suggestions of activities you might try.

Grab some cheese and crackers (or other snack combos) and make patterns with them. Be creative! For example:



We can ask, “We’ve made three copies of the same pattern (repeated pattern of the core). How many pieces of food is that altogether?” “How many pieces of food would you need if we were to make 6 copies of the same pattern?”

Through this activity, children learn that patterns can be represented in a variety of ways and that this particular example highlights multiplication.

Using the same snacks from the activity above, you can help students build understanding of fractions. For example, you can ask, “What is the ratio of cheese to crackers?” and “To keep the same ratio, how many pieces of cheese will I have if I quadruple the number of crackers?”

Now, grab a pie (or a round cookie) and let’s have some fun with circles!



Using a piece of string, get your child to measure the circumference of the pie. Do the same with the diameter. Divide the measure of the circumference by the diameter and what they’ll get is π (pi)!

Learn more about this ratio here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNiRzZ66YN0>

Now, that you’ve had a healthy snack why not move with math? Below are some engaging ways you and your family can be active in math!

Turn on music and make shapes with your bodies. Encourage your child to make different poses, some symmetrical and some asymmetrical. Things

to talk about while you dance, “Can you make your body symmetrical to mine?”



How about a round of “Simon Says” referencing different shapes, angles, and directions? Say, “Simon says make a 90 degree angle with your arms” or “Simon Says turn counter clockwise 270°.”

Here’s a game that involves finding a treasure. One person hides a small object in a room and then provides instructions using positional language to give simple directions (e.g., in, on, around, right, left.). Or, “X” marks the spot. The person has to draw a simple map of the room to provide directions to the hidden object.

Enjoy your time doing math with your family. Keep it light and make it fun!

These links offer some other suggestions.

<https://talkingmathwithkids.com/>

<http://mathpickle.com/games/>