

Family Fun with Math: Math Games

Math learning can happen anytime! Here are a few ideas to help your children see the math all around them.

Why Math Games?

Playing together combines multiple areas of skill development.

Try it Out: Games to play together

- “War” (Card Game) – deal out a deck of cards evenly between all players. Flip over one card at a time into the middle. The player who put down the highest card collects all cards in the middle.
- Chutes and Ladders – Each player rolls a dice and moves around the board. Certain spaces have ladders and the players can go up to an especially high number, but some spaces have chutes, and the players have to slide backwards.
- M&M madness (from <http://bedtimemath.org/fun-math-at-home/>) – graphing how many candies are in each bag

Talk about It:

- For M&M madness: Asking predictive questions (“Which color do you think will have the most?”), counting together
- Making observations/narrations (ex. “You rolled 3. Now you can hop three spaces from 5 to 8. You started at 5, added 3, and got to 8.”)

Make it Work for Your Child:

- Homemade dice with only 1 or 2 on it instead of 1-6
- Limit card deck to smaller numbers (ex. 2-10, no faces or aces)

Make it Work for Your Family:

- These are all games that could be played with any number of people
- For “War” – try flipping over two cards, and adding them up to find who has the bigger sum.