Family Fun with Math: House Hunt

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

Why House Hunt?

This activity targets many math concepts at the same time: counting, sorting, comparing, and even graphing. Plus, it is a fun way for children to explore their community and see how math can be used to describe the world around them.

Try it Out: [An action families can take together]

- Have your child choose about five house colors to take data on
- Write down these categories on a piece of paper
- Go on a short walk (i.e., around the block) and place a tally mark for every house color seen (make sure to bring a writing utensil, the paper with the categories, and something to write on)
- When back at the house, count the total tally marks in each category and write down the number next to the tally marks
- Optional: Create a graph based on the data collected from your walk

Talk about It:

- Here are some questions to ask your child:
    - What house color was most common (has the most)?
    - What house color was the least common?
    - Are there any colors that had the same amount?
    - What happens if we painted a house [insert color] instead of [insert color]? Does it change which color house is more/least common?
- If drawing a graph, you can ask your child:
    - How do you know which one has the most?
    - How do you know which one has the least?

Make it Work for Your Child:

- This can be done with any object- doesn't just have to be houses. Some ideas include:
    - Colors of toy cars
    - Letters on a page in a book with braille
    - Types of stuffed animals
    - Types of fruit
    - Family members favorite color, food, animal, etc.

Make it Work for Your Family:

- How could older or younger siblings participate?
    - Younger siblings who know colors can help be the "scout" for different color

- Older siblings can also participate by finding other objects to take data (possibly with higher numbers), calculating statistical values (i.e., mean, range, median) , and/or drawing a graph of the data taken.
- How could the whole family play together?
    - If possible, family members can break out into "teams". One team collects data on the color of houses on one block and another on a different block. When you come back compare the data each team collected.