

Family Fun with Math: Huff and Puff

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

Why Huff and Puff?

The activity explores the properties of materials by seeing how far you can blow them. You can make comparisons between heavy and light objects and which ones go farther. This also gives a great opportunity to explore measurement.

Try it Out:

- Gather up objects that you can move by blowing on them (cotton balls or toilet paper tubes for example).
- Set up a starting line. Blow on each object as hard as you can to make it move.
- Observe which one went farthest. Use a set of long objects to measure. A collection of markers or blocks laid end-to-end make a great measuring tool. Record how far each one went.

Talk about It:

- Here are some questions to ask your child:
 - Which one went the farthest?
 - Which one went to shortest?
 - Why do you think this one went farther than that one?
 - Which ones were easy or hard to blow?
- Explore how shape affects how far things go. Can you move a block? What about a can? If you put the can on its side, is it easier or harder to move?
- Have a race to move objects through an obstacle course with only your breath.

Make it Work for Your Child:

- Try blowing through a straw, or flicking objects.
- Use objects that make noise when they move to support children with vision impairments.
- Create a ramp to roll objects down for students with limited mobility

Make it Work for Your Family:

- Older siblings can measure using rulers or measuring tape, make predictions about how far objects will go, and create a chart of which objects go farthest.
- Let each person in the home pick the object they think they can blow the farthest.

Note: this activity is adapted from the Creative Curriculum® Sixth Edition