

Math for School Age Children **by Angel Avery-Wright**

Simple questions and statements can be a simple part of the day.

15 minutes until we go outside. Who can tell me what time that will be?

Today is the 53rd day of school.

Today is Jessica's 8th birthday.

For school age children, counting, labeling, measuring, and reading can all be done during snacks and meals.

- Choose your snack helper and ask them to find out how many napkins, paper plates or cups they will need. They can count the children present or ask for a show of hands. Then have them count out the proper number of items.
- Ask what shapes they can find on their plate.
- It's never too early to teach children about healthy habits, like eating well. School age children can learn to understand the labels on food products. They can read the numbers and understand where the numbers fall into a healthy or not so healthy food choice. Percentages, grams and serving sizes are all about math.
- If children are serving themselves, let them use measuring cups/spoons to serve with. Then they will learn what a 'cup' really looks like.

If children are washing their hands multiple times a day, let some instances involve counting to 20. And not 1.2.3.4. but 1, pause, 2, pause, 3, pause, 4.

Having math materials isn't enough if children don't use them for math or don't use them at all.

Abacus: Use for attendance, or daily graphing, such as how many children like the snow, how many don't.

Tangrams: Using shapes to make other objects, so having the cards to go along with the shapes help make it a math activity. (Make your own)

Puzzles: Can children put a 500-piece puzzle together? A 1,000-piece puzzle?

All of these items have the potential to be a math activity.

Clocks: What time is dinner? What time does the restaurant open? Clock cards could help here.

Menus: These can be gathered or you can make your own, but explain what menus are and what the prices mean. Make puzzles for the children to solve using a menu.

- If I have \$10, do I have enough to buy two slices of pizza and a cup of milk?
- How much would it cost if I bought sweet and sour chicken and vegetable fried rice?

Play money: If you visit the restaurant don't forget to pay and get your change.

Scales: People may weigh themselves at home or at the doctor's office all the time. Why not add one to dramatic play area? Add a small scale if you have a grocery store to weigh fruit and vegetables.

Measuring spoons and cups: Use at meal time or snack time to understand how much you are eating.

Teach children how to use different measuring tools such as measuring tapes, rulers, etc. Can you build a house that is 25 inches wide? 12 inches high? How tall are you?

Provide many different types of math games: Hi-Ho Cherry-Oh, Life, Monopoly, Card games such as Go Fish and Crazy Eights, Rummikub, Mancala, and others. Color code them by difficulty using color dot stickers.

For more ideas, visit Learning is Everywhere, a resource with activities based on Pennsylvania Learning Standards.

Resources:

<http://letstalkqualitypa.com/>

papromiseforchildren.com/learning-is-everywhere

<https://www.pdesas.org/Page/Viewer/ViewPage/34/>