

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to working with your child and supporting their math learning through our tutoring program. A math assessment will be administered before your child begins working with their tutor. This will allow the tutor to develop the beginning lessons at a level that is appropriate for your child. This program is success oriented and will allow your child to advance at their own pace through playful activities and problem solving using math tools.

Leading educators in math teach concepts using math tools, such as real money, move towards using pictures of objects and finally end with using numbers which is considered more abstract.

When you play using cards and dice you are working at the pictorial and abstract level. Your child will be bringing home math games to play with you to reinforce their basic math skills. This practice is both fun and essential to developing quick recall of basic facts as well as number sense.

Many children come to school being able to recite numbers in order and proceed to learn the algorithms for adding and subtracting multiplying and dividing without really understanding that the numbers represent quantities. Dice and cards reinforce this understanding because you can see the quantity and count it. Some things you can learn by playing dice and cards are:

- recognizing that 3 is more than 2 by the number of dots
- how to take apart numbers, for ex. $5 = 3 + 2$
- knowing that to get an answer you can count up ex. $3 + _ = 5$ can be figured out by counting up from 3, or that you can subtract $5 - 3 = _$
- multiplying is actually repeated adding
- making 10's to add quickly ex. $17 + 8$ is the same as 20 plus 5.
- fast facts (important for later grades when you are expected to know the facts quickly as you work through complex problems)
- reasoning skills
- flexibility with numbers

We now know that math is developmental and without these crucial elements in place, children can experience a great deal of difficulty in later grades as the mathematical concepts become increasingly complex.

Finally, a big contributor to a child's success in math is their attitude. If they feel the activity is fun and they are successful at it they will be more likely to develop a 'can do' attitude. You can help your child develop this attitude by playing math games with enthusiasm. If you have questions regarding the program we encourage you to talk to the supervisor at the tutoring session.



Idafs Learning Disabilities Association - Fraser South

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