

Math In Real Life: First Grade

Playing number games and participating in simple math activities will enable your child to:

- Practice and explain different ways to solve math problems
- Add and subtract numbers up to 20
- Solve word problems using addition and subtraction



Ideas to try with your child:

- Look for math problems in real life and work them out with your child:
 - “I have 12 eggs and I used 6 at breakfast. How many are left?”
 - “Each person in our family gets 2 cookies for dessert. How many cookies do we need all together?”
 - “We should have 10 markers in the box, but I only see 4. How many are missing?”
- Play number games with your child:
 - “I am thinking of a number that is 10 more than 27. What is it?”
 - “I am thinking of a number that is 3 less than 11. What is it?”

If your child is struggling:

- The book *12 Ways to Get to 11* by Eve Miriam uses ordinary experiences to show twelve combinations of numbers that each add up to eleven.
- Make a number line on the sidewalk using chalk. Have your child stand at a given number and hop forwards to add or backwards to subtract another number, counting out loud. Help her to write the number sentence ($8+3=11$) when she is done.

Going further:

- *The Grapes of Math* by Greg Tang and *Math Curse* by Jon Scieszka are two great books about math riddles, puzzles, and word problems for children ready for more of a challenge.
- A great resource for dice and card games to practice math facts is:
http://www.granby.k12.ct.us/uploaded/faculty/wyzika/Dice_and_Card_Games_to_Practice_Math_Facts.pdf

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children’s best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children in First Grade** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: “Know and talk about ways to solve different math problems.” *Learning About My World, First Grade*, pg. 103