

BES Tiger Tracks

Parents:

You can help reinforce the value of learning math skills at home. Use these activities to help your child see how math applies to everyday life. Children will have fun and won't even know how much they're learning. For more fun home math activities go to <http://athomewithmath.terc.edu/> for activities in both English and Spanish.

What's fair?

"Cherries—yum! I want the exact same amount as Tulani!"

When it comes to favorite foods, everyone wants a "fair share."

When your children ask you to "make it fair," ask them to figure out how to divide up the food so everyone gets the same amount. This involves using division, as well as counting, adding, subtracting, and multiplying—and sometimes even working with fractions.

How much longer?

"How much longer until the soccer game begins? ... How long until

we eat? ... How much longer before the movie starts?"

Next time your children ask you "How much longer?" ask them to do the math to find out for themselves. Figuring out how much longer (or, as it's sometimes called, "calculating elapsed time") is a great mental math exercise, a practical real-world skill, and a way to develop a better sense of time.

Taking turns

"When will it be my turn to see that magazine? You said we could each take 10-minute turns!"

Taking turns is a big part of family life. Even if there's only one child in the family, adults sometimes need to take turns, too.

As children figure out when their turn begins, they get lots of practice with addition and time sense. They also have something to do when it's not their turn. You can do this activity just about anywhere—in the kitchen, waiting at the doctor's office, or on the bus.

Wish list

"There are so many great things in this catalog. If I had \$50 to spend, what would I buy?"

Mail-order catalogs and advertising supplements can be a temptation, a convenience, and an annoyance. They can also be an opportunity for lots of math! In this activity, children pretend they have a certain amount of money to spend. They use a catalog or an advertising supplement to make a "wish list" of items they can buy for their spending limit. As they make their choices, they practice addition, subtraction, and estimation with dollars and cents. They also learn about working within a budget. This activity can be a great way to keep children occupied—and doing math—on long trips, at the kitchen table while you're making dinner, or on rainy days.