

Fun activities to do at home

Maths Night

Here is a fun way to engage in mathematics with your child at home. The following website has some fantastic activities and ideas for parents and children to work on together.

<http://orion.math.iastate.edu/mathnight/>

How much?

- ◆ While shopping, point out items that together cost \$100.
- ◆ Ask your child to work out in their head the cost of 3 items.
- ◆ Ask them to guess first.
See how close they come.
- ◆ If you see any items labelled, for example, '2 for \$26.50', ask them to work out the cost of 1 item for you, and to explain how they got the answer.

Times tables

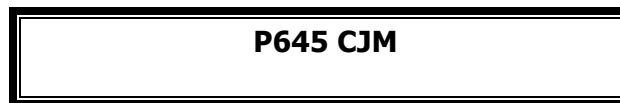
Say together the six times table forwards, then backwards. Ask your child questions, such as:

Nine sixes?	How many sixes in 42?
Six times four?	Forty-eight divided by six?
Three multiplied by six?	Six times what equals sixty?

Repeat with the seven, eight and nine times tables.

Decimal number plates

- ◆ Each choose a car number plate with three digits.



- ◆ Choose two of the digits, e.g. 4 and 6. Make the smallest and largest numbers you can, each with 1 decimal places, e.g. 4.6 and 6.4.
- ◆ Now find the difference between the two decimal numbers, e.g. $6.4 - 4.6 = 1.8$
- ◆ Whoever makes the biggest difference scores 10 points.
- ◆ The person with the most points wins.

Play the game again, but this time score 10 points for the smallest difference, or 10 points for the biggest total.

Finding areas and perimeters

Perimeter = distance around the edge of a shape
Area of a rectangle = length x breadth (width)

- ◆ Collect 5 or 6 used envelopes of different sizes.
- ◆ Ask your child to estimate the perimeter of each one to the nearest centimetre. Write the estimate on the back.
- ◆ Now measure. Write the estimate next to the measurement.
- ◆ How close did your child get?
- ◆ Now estimate then work out the area of each envelope.
- ◆ Were perimeters or areas easier to estimate? Why?

You could do something similar using an old newspaper, e.g.

- ◆ Work out which page has the biggest area used for photographs.
- Choose a page and work out the total area of news stories or adverts on that page.