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Related Activities to Try at Home

Dear Family,

The activities suggested below are related to the mathematics we are currently working on in school. Doing them with your child can enrich his or her mathematical learning.

Counting Activities Your child can count collections of objects. Many first graders are able to count quantities of about 20 or 30 accurately. With your help, your child can count even higher. Together, count sets of objects around the house such as silverware, pennies, or collections of cars or animals. You can also look in books, magazines, and newspapers for pictures that your child can count. Your child can also practice the rote counting sequence. Begin counting at 1 and take turns saying each number. See how high you can count together. Also practice counting backward. Start at 20 and count back to 1; gradually choose larger numbers.

Solving Problems about Addition and Subtraction In school we have been solving story problems and working on games and activities that involve combining two amounts or removing one amount from another. Look for opportunities to make up and solve problems with your child. For example, *I see 4 gray cars and 3 black cars in the parking lot. How many cars are in the parking lot? Or, I have 10 pennies in my pocket. If I give 3 of them to you, how many pennies will I have left?* Encourage your child to retell the story in his or her own words and then share his or her strategy for solving the problem.



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Games Your child will be bringing home the directions and materials for a card game called *Double Compare*. This game focuses on combining and comparing quantities. As you play, ask your child to explain how he or she is determining the total amount and how he or she is deciding who has more.

Math and Literature Here are some great counting books you can find in your local library and read with your child. Have your child count the objects on each page, and see what mathematical concepts your child discovers.

- Bowman, Anne. *Count Them While You Can*.
- Falwell, Cathryn. *Feast for 10*.
- Holub, Joan. *Apple Countdown*.
- Johnson, Stephen. *City by Numbers*.
- Mannis, Celester. *One Leaf Rides the Wind*.
- Rose, Deborah Lee. *One Nighttime Sea*.
- Walton, Rick. *One More Bunny*.
- Yektai, Niki. *Bears at the Beach Counting 10 to 20*.