



As the school year comes to a close it's important to work on math with your child this summer. Many children experience the "summer slide," returning to school in the fall having lost academic skills. The National Summer Learning Association, says students can lose up to three months of growth if they're not engaged in learning during the summer! Setting aside at least 30 minutes, three times a week will avoid this.

Summer is a great time to practice the many math concepts introduced during the school year, and use math in real life in a fun, non-academic way.

These suggested activities will not only help your child avoid the "summer slide", you'll enjoy your time together while school's out!



DreamBox Learning offers a personalized K–8 math environment that combines a rigorous curriculum, a highly engaging environment, and our industry-leading Intelligent Adaptive Learning™ technology which dynamically adapts in real time to create millions of personalized learning paths tailored to each child's unique needs.

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Have fun with math this summer and avoid the “summer slide”

Numbers and Operations

Developing number sense with card games. Counting, estimating, adding, subtracting, multiplying, and working with fractions and money are important skills for your child. The more children use numbers, the better they understand number relationships. The simple game of “War” helps kids recognize numbers that are greater than or less than others. Or, each player can take two cards from the pile and add (or subtract or multiply) their two numbers. The bigger number (or smaller number in subtraction) wins that round. This not only helps kids practice computation skills, it improves mental math strategies as well.

Algebra

Patterning. Create patterns with your child using numbers, shapes, or objects, and ask them what comes next. If there are six shapes repeated in the pattern, ask what shape will be in the tenth spot. Point out designs and ask what pattern was used. The more you discuss patterns, the more instinctively your child will recognize them.

Geometry

Two dimensional fun. Most kids love to draw. Why not incorporate shapes and geometric vocabulary? Ask: How can you make an ice cream cone using two shapes? Talk about the attributes of the shape. How many sides does the triangle have? How many angles? Which lines are parallel?

Three dimensional building. Using building sets, let your child explore and create. Ask them to build a structure for a certain purpose or that meets certain criteria (it has to have a way for people to enter and exit, or it must have a place for the horses to sleep). After they build it they'll love describing to you how it functions to meet its given purpose.

Measurement

Create a project together. Try a project that uses measurement—build a bird house, sew a quilt, or bake some brownies. Discuss the tools you use and how to get exact measurements.

Data analysis and probability

Graphing research. A lot of research can be done in and around the house. Collect data, organize it, and interpret the results together. For example, research the most popular car color in your neighborhood. First, predict what color will be the winner. Then go for a walk with notebook in hand, and record the car colors you see. When you get home create a bar graph together.

Process standards

Working problems together. Involve your child in real-life problem solving: “think out loud” and explain your reasoning. When planting a garden, how many seed packets will we need? Calculate how many seeds we'll need per row at six inches apart. What tool should we measure with or should we estimate? The more kids hear your reasoning, the more comfortable they will become using math!