

How does mathematics help with solving problems that come up during daily tasks? Ask your child to help you solve everyday number problems.

- Pose these problems: “We need 6 tomatoes to make our sauce for dinner, and we have only 2. How many more do we need to buy?” “You have 2 pillows in your room and your sister has 2 pillows in her room. How many pillowcases do I need to wash?” “Two guests are coming to eat dinner with us. How many plates will we need?”
- Make this task simpler by focusing on fewer problems to solve. Make it more challenging by increasing the numbers to be added or subtracted, or by adding and subtracting more than two numbers.

How many turns will it take to get to 100? Make up games using dice or playing cards.

- Try rolling dice and having your child add, subtract, or multiply the numbers that come up. Have your child add the totals until he or she reaches a target number – for example, 100.
- Play the game backwards to help your child practise subtraction.
- Make the task easier by using only one operation – for example, addition.

Is one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) always larger than one quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$)? Use household items to help with understanding fractions.

- Ask your child to show you $\frac{1}{2}$ of a slice of bread, and $\frac{1}{4}$ of the same slice. Ask, “Which is larger?” Repeat this activity with other fractions, such as $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{2}{4}$.
- Compare $\frac{1}{2}$ of a slice of bread with $\frac{1}{2}$ of a blanket. Ask whether $\frac{1}{2}$ is always the same size.
- Compare $\frac{1}{2}$ of a slice of bread with $\frac{1}{4}$ of a blanket. Is $\frac{1}{2}$ always larger than $\frac{1}{4}$? Talk about this with your child.

How is it possible to generate a target number on a calculator? Play “Broken Calculator”.

- Ask your child to pretend that the number 8 key on the calculator is broken. Ask how he or she can make the number 18 appear on the screen without it. (Sample answers: $20-2$, $15+3$).
- Ask other questions of the same type, using different “broken” keys.
- Make this task easier or more challenging by varying the number key on the calculator or the target number.

