

Ways for parents to help promote mathematical thinking and understanding

Brought to you by the CLAD Lab at Notre Dame



Play board games (e.g., Chutes and Ladders, Yahtzee, Battleship, Connect Four), card games (e.g., War/Top-it and Set) together as a family.



Praise children for the process (e.g., “you found a great strategy for solving that problem”), and help children see mistakes as learning opportunities.



When going over your child’s math homework, ask open-ended questions like “how do you know that’s correct?” and “explain the strategy you used here.”



Point out and discuss math in everyday life like in cooking, shopping, sports, and plots of storybooks.



Challenge children to decompose numbers, focusing on ten (e.g., 5 & 5, 3 & 7) and base-10 structure (e.g., 25 is two tens and five ones, 50 is five tens and zero ones).