



Education and Early
Childhood Development
English Programs

Parents, Students, Teachers, Community Members Working Together in Mathematics Education

Revised math curriculum

The PEI math curriculum has been revised at grades 1, 2, 4, 7 and 8. New textbooks and resources will be introduced in these grades in September 2009, and later in Grades 3, 5, 6 and 9.

The revised curriculum retains a strong emphasis on reasoning and problem solving as well as on the basic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. There is also increased emphasis on the critical number skills of estimation, mental arithmetic, and paper and pencil computation. In addition, the use of appropriate technology throughout the K-12 curriculum can contribute to a learning environment in which the growing curiosity of students can lead to rich mathematical discoveries and deeper understanding at all grade levels.

The curriculum is designed to help students see math as a skill that is needed everywhere in everyday life. It recognizes that students understand math better when they see how mathematical ideas are inter-related and connected to what they are learning in other subjects and to situations in the world around them.

Parents can help their children enjoy math by promoting a positive attitude towards math at home and by reinforcing what is learned in the classroom each day. Students can see the value of math when they apply math skills to the following everyday activities.



Cooking - Measuring ingredients and setting oven temperatures and cook times helps children learn fractions.



Weather – Recording temperatures, precipitation and hours of daylight helps children practice creating and reading tables and graphs.



Time - Guessing the length of time required to complete a task, holding *one-minute challenges* (How many times can you write your name in one minute?) using a kitchen timer is a fun way to develop estimation skills.



Games – Logic games, puzzles and other board games are fun, family-friendly ways to develop a variety of math skills.



Sports- Tracking statistics to determine “games behind leader” for favorite team; interpreting averages (*goals against, save percentages, batting averages, earned run averages*); and calculating the dimensions of a playing surfaces for various sports helps children see the importance of math in the world around.



Money - Using flyers to generate a shopping list and calculate the cost, trading equal amounts of money (*How many pennies do you need to trade for a nickel, dime or quarter?*); or determining PST, GST on purchases shows how math ideas are connected to other math ideas.



Travel - Reading maps; estimating speed, distance, duration of trip and fuel efficiency helps children connect math concepts to other subject areas.

Materials such as coins, beans, or other objects that can be used to represent their ideas and strategies will support their thinking and problem solving. If your child seems puzzled when trying to solve a problem, ask him or her to tell you what doesn’t make sense. When children talk about their ideas and strategies it helps them learn to reason mathematically.

By choosing activities so that children have success and can see progress, and by treating errors as opportunities to help children learn something new, daily problem solving at home can be fun for everyone.