

# MATH MOMENTS

APRIL 2015

For the April newsletter, we would like to put a spotlight on talking about numbers! For each level, we talk about how conversations are making it easier for kids to deepen their understanding of math. Our "Ways to Help at Home" sections are much larger this month. Check them out! It's amazing what kids can learn when they just talk things through. How do you do a number talk? It's easy – you don't need a single thing. Just pose a question or challenge and give your child time to think through the answer. You might be surprised by what your child can do when you try some of these fun AND easy number talk ideas at home.

## SPOTLIGHT ON PRIMARY

In class, students are often asked to "turn and talk" to a partner. This gives them an opportunity to share their mathematical thinking. They need to verbalize the relationships between numbers, shapes and operations to strengthen their understanding of math concepts. These opportunities also give them a chance to hear another student's thinking.

It's very powerful when they see and hear solutions performed in other ways!

## WAYS TO HELP AT HOME

Play **Beep Number** with your child.

Start counting, but instead of saying one of the numbers, say "Beep." Have your child guess which number you "beeped!" You can start at one, or any number.

Try higher numbers, too. You can even play it while counting by 10's ( ex.: 20, 30, **beep**, 50)

Play **Hidden Number**.

Tell your child you are thinking of two numbers with a sum of \_\_\_\_\_. Name one of the numbers. Can they name the other? For younger kids, play this with objects and hide some of the objects under a cup.

3, 4, beep, 6



The beep number is 5!



## MUST-VISIT WEBSITES

This is an extremely comprehensive collection of videos and newsletters to help your child with math. Each grade level has its own page and they are organized by module and lessons.

<http://www.lpssonline.com/site5514.php>

## SPOTLIGHT ON INTERMEDIATE

Older students work together to solve problems in class. This gives them an opportunity to practice expressing their thoughts as well as hearing the thoughts of others. It's a great life skill to be able to work alongside someone to accomplish a goal!

### WAYS TO HELP AT HOME

Skip counting is a great way to learn multiplication and division facts. We've also seen how it comes in handy when students are working on long division and fractions. One fun way to talk about numbers at home is to skip count together. Here are some ideas: Besides skip counting by 2's - 9's, can your child do it backwards? Can you skip count by 11's, 12's or 13's? It's a fun challenge! If you name a number in the skip-count pattern, can your child pick it up from there? For instance, if you say "40," can your child continue counting by 8's? Or, you can name a number and see if your child can tell you which skip count it's a part of. For instance, if you say "24" does your child know you say it when you skip count by 2's, 3's, 4's, 6's AND 8's? (And even 12's!)

#### Math Magic!

*Follow these steps, and we guarantee you will get a sum of 1,089!*

1. Pick a three-digit number (All three digits must be unique, like 123, not 221.)
2. Reverse that number. (Ex.: 123 becomes 321.)
3. Find the difference between the number in step 1 and the number in step 2.
4. Reverse the answer.
5. Add the numbers from step 3 and 4. Did you get 1089?

### GREAT MATH APPS



Garfield's  
Mental Math  
(Free)



Impoppable  
(Free)



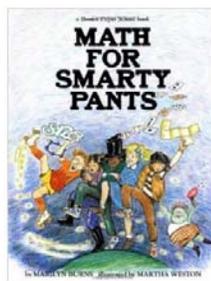
Winky Think  
Logic Puzzles  
(Free)

### Literature & Math

#### *"Math For Smarty Pants"*

*By Marylynn Burns*

Math concepts are conveyed through entertaining puzzles, tricks and word problems. This book proves that numbers are only a part of math.



#### *"Count to a Million"*

*By Jerry Pallotta*

This book begins, "If you can count to 10, you can count to a million." Kids are always bragging about how high they can count! This book teaches important lessons about the way numbers are grouped.

