
25 Hands-On
Math Activities
at Home

A Note for Homeschool Moms

Math does not have to mean worksheets only.

Some of the best math lessons happen in the kitchen, living room, or backyard using everyday objects. Inside this guide you will find 25 simple hands-on math activities you can start today using things you likely already have at home.

These activities help children understand math by seeing it, touching it, and experiencing it.

Fractions with Cooking

Concept: Fractions

What You Need

Measuring cups

Flour, rice, or sugar

Mixing bowl

Activity

Use measuring cups to show how smaller fractions combine to make a whole.

Fill a ½ cup measuring cup and pour it into the bowl.

Fill another ½ cup and pour it in again.

Explain that ½ + ½ = 1 whole cup.

Now repeat using a ¼ cup measuring cup.

Pour four ¼ cups into the bowl and watch the cup slowly build to a whole.

Children can see how multiple smaller pieces combine to create one whole.

Fractions with LEGOs

Concept: Fractions

What You Need

4 identical LEGO bricks

Activity

Snap 4 LEGOs together to represent one whole.

Separate them and rebuild the stack piece by piece.

1 LEGO = 1/4

2 LEGOs = 2/4

3 LEGOs = 3/4

When the fourth LEGO is added, the whole is complete again.

Repeat the activity using 3 LEGOs to demonstrate thirds.

Multiplication with LEGOs

Concept: Multiplication

What You Need

LEGO bricks

Activity

Build equal towers using LEGOs.

Create 3 towers with 4 bricks in each tower.

Count the bricks together.

$4 + 4 + 4 = 12$

Explain that multiplication is a faster way to count equal groups.

$3 \times 4 = 12$

Children can rebuild new towers using different numbers to explore other multiplication facts.

The Great Cracker Factory

Concept: Multiplication and Division

What You Need

Crackers or small snacks

Plates or napkins

Activity

Place a pile of crackers on the table.

Pretend you are running a cracker factory that must deliver snacks evenly.

Place several plates on the table.

Example

4 plates for 4 people.

Give your child a pile of crackers.

They must distribute the crackers one at a time to each plate until the crackers are gone.

Count how many are on each plate times the plate - 4x4=16

now take the total

16 divided by 4 = 4

Snack Graph Activity

Concept: Graphing

What You Need

Small snacks (grapes, crackers, cereal, pretzels)

Paper

Pencil

Activity

Place different snack types on the table.

Count how many of each snack you have.

Draw a simple bar graph on paper with one column for each snack.

Color blocks to match the totals.

Example

Grapes — 6

Crackers — 4

Pretzels — 3

The graph visually shows which snack has the most and which has the least.

Coin Counting Jar

Concept: Money and Counting

What You Need

Pennies

Nickels

Dimes

Quarters

Activity

Sort the coins into separate piles.

Count how many coins are in each group.

Calculate the value of each pile.

Example

5 pennies = 5 cents

3 nickels = 15 cents

2 quarters = 50 cents

Combine different coins to reach new totals.

Building Towers to Compare Numbers

Concept: Greater Than and Less Than

What You Need

Blocks or LEGOs

Activity

Build two towers using different numbers of blocks.

Example

Tower A — 5 blocks

Tower B — 8 blocks

Place them next to each other.

The taller tower shows the greater number while the shorter tower shows the smaller number.

Dice Addition Game

Concept: Addition or subtraction

What You Need

Two dice

Paper

Pencil

Activity

Roll two dice.

Add the numbers that appear.

Write the equation on paper.

Example

3 + 5 = 8

2 + 6 = 8

4 + 1 = 5

Continue rolling to create several addition or subtraction problems.

Estimating with a Jar

Concept: Estimation

What You Need

A jar

Small items such as beans, cereal, or buttons

Activity

Fill a jar with small items.

Look at the jar and estimate how many items are inside.

Pour the contents out and count them one by one.

Compare the estimate with the actual total.

Sticky Note Number Ladder

Concept: Number Sequencing and Counting

What You Need

Sticky notes

Marker

A wall, door, or hallway

Activity

Write numbers on sticky notes.

Start with numbers 1 through 20 (or higher if your child is ready).

Place the sticky notes randomly on a wall or door.

Have your child find the number 1 and place it at the bottom of the wall.

Next, they must find 2, then 3, then 4, building a number ladder upward in the correct order.

Continue placing numbers in order until the full sequence is complete.

For an added challenge, mix numbers 21–40 into the pile and have your child continue the sequence higher up the wall.

This activity helps children practice number order, recognition, and sequencing while turning it into a hands-on challenge.

Window Shape Hunt

Concept: Geometry

What You Need

Paper

Pencil

Activity

Look around a room and find shapes in everyday objects.

Examples include windows, picture frames, tables, and rugs.

Write down shapes such as square, rectangle, circle, and triangle.

Count how many of each shape appear.

Counting Steps Around the House

Concept: Skip Counting

What You Need

Open space in the home

Activity

Stand in an open space in your home.

Choose a number to count by, such as 2, 5, or 10.

Each time your child takes a step, they say the next number in the sequence.

Example:

Step 1 — 2

Step 2 — 4

Step 3 — 6

Step 4 — 8

Continue walking across the room while counting by that number.

Try the activity again using a different number such as 5s or 10s.

This activity helps children practice skip counting, which is an important foundation for multiplication.

The Great Toy Store

Concept: Addition and Simple Money Math

What You Need

Small toys

Paper

Marker

Play money or coins

Activity

Set up a small toy store on the table.

Place a price on each toy.

Example

Toy car — 2 coins

Doll — 3 coins

Animal figure — 4 coins

Give your child a small number of coins.

They can choose toys to “buy.”

Each time they choose items, they add the prices together to see if they have enough coins.

Bathtub Container Math

Concept: Volume and Capacity

What You Need

Small cups

Bowls or containers of different sizes

Water

Bathtub or sink

Activity

Place several empty bowls or containers in the bathtub or sink.

Choose one small cup to use for scooping water.

Fill the cup with water and pour it into one of the containers.

Continue filling the cup and pouring it into the container while counting each scoop out loud.

Example:

1 cup

2 cups

3 cups

4 cups

Continue until the container is full.

Write down or remember how many cups of water were needed to fill that container.

Now repeat the activity with a different container.

Pizza Slice Fractions

Concept: Fractions

What You Need

Paper plate or paper circle

Scissors

Crayons

Activity

Draw a pizza on the plate.

Cut it into equal pieces.

Try dividing the pizza into 2 slices, 4 slices, and 8 slices.

Color different slices to represent fractions.

Closet Color Graph

Concept: Graphing

What You Need

Clothing items
Paper
Pencil

Activity

Choose clothing items from a drawer or closet.
Sort them by color.
Count how many items are in each color group.
Create a simple bar graph to display the totals.

Recipe Doubling Math

Concept: Multiplication

What You Need

A simple recipe

Paper

Pencil

Activity

Take a recipe and double each ingredient.

Example

1 cup flour becomes 2 cups

2 eggs becomes 4 eggs

3 tablespoons milk becomes 6 tablespoons

Write the original amount and the doubled amount side by side.

Hallway Number Line

Concept: Addition and Subtraction

What You Need

Tape or paper numbers

Activity

Place numbers on the floor in a line.
Stand on a number.
Move forward to represent adding numbers.
Move backward to represent subtracting numbers.
Walking the number line makes number changes easier to visualize.

Book Stack Comparison

Concept: Measurement and Counting

What You Need

Books

Ruler

Activity

Create several stacks of books using different numbers.

Measure the height of each stack.

Compare which stacks are tallest and shortest.

Observe how adding books increases the height.

Family Shoe Measurement

Concept: Measurement and Ordering

What You Need

Family shoes

Ruler

Paper

Pencil

Activity

Measure the length of different family shoes.

Write each measurement down.

Place the measurements in order from shortest to longest.

Spoonful Addition

Concept: Addition

What You Need

Two bowls

A spoon

Small snack pieces such as cereal, crackers, or raisins

Activity

Place a small number of snack pieces into the first bowl.

For example, add 2 spoonfuls of cereal.

Place a different number of spoonfuls into the second bowl.

For example, add 3 spoonfuls of cereal.

Have your child count how many spoonfuls are in the first bowl.

Then count how many spoonfuls are in the second bowl.

Pour both bowls together into one larger bowl or into one of the bowls.

Count all of the spoonfuls together.

Example:

2 spoonfuls + 3 spoonfuls = 5 spoonfuls

You can repeat the activity with new amounts each time so your child can practice different addition problems using real objects they can see and count.

Toy Car Race Distances

Concept: Measurement and Comparison

What You Need

Toy cars

Tape measure

Activity

Roll toy cars across the floor.

Measure how far each car travels.

Record the distances and compare which car traveled the farthest.

Towel Folding Fractions

Concept: Fractions

What You Need

Hand towels

Activity

Fold a towel in half to show 1/2.

Fold it again to show quarters.

Unfold the towel and see how the sections divide the whole towel into equal parts.

Stair Step Counting

Concept: Counting and Addition

What You Need

Stairs

Activity

Walk up the stairs while counting each step.
Walk down while counting again.
Add the number of steps going up and down to find the total steps traveled.

Side note you can walk up and times it by 2 for multiplication!

Backyard Stick Measurement

Concept: Measurement

What You Need

Sticks from outside

Ruler

Activity

Collect several sticks from the yard.

Measure each stick using a ruler.

Place them in order from shortest to longest and compare their lengths.