



Family Math Canada began in 2000 as a Western University project (Esso Family Math) with full funding provided by The Imperial Oil Foundation. The four-year project was initiated to support parents, especially those who found it difficult to help their children learn math.

In 2011, the Family Math Canada Foundation was formed by original Esso Family Math team members to meet the ongoing demand for resources and training.

Family Math Canada believes:

- Math is everywhere. Uncovering math in everyday life makes mathematical learning natural, real and non-threatening to children.
- Parents are key to their children's progress in school.
- Family Math can, and does, change attitudes towards math for both parents and children. A positive attitude towards math plays an important role in students' math success.
- Math concepts are sometimes difficult for children to grasp during structured classes. Family Math provides a means for parents to reinforce these concepts while encouraging their children to be excited as they learn.
- Everyday materials and math games help children understand math ideas.
- Interesting mathematical activities, games, stories and manipulative materials encourage stress-free learning and enable children to move mathematics from the concrete world of reality to the abstract world of symbolism.
- Stories are a natural accompaniment to math learning.

A Few Hints for Parents

- Ask. Don't tell when doing math activities with your child. Encourage your child to tell you what they are thinking. Try not to give them an answer.
- Ask "why" your child comes up with the answer they do.
- Listen and build on what your child already knows.
- Playing games with numbers over and over is a good way to help your child become familiar with a variety of math concepts and eventually memorize them. Addition and subtraction facts are only one example of this way to learn that is a fun part of the child's world and life.
- Recognize that math takes practice. Your child won't be perfect and that's OK.

This package is a final project from Family Math Canada as it dissolves the Foundation. We hope it will inspire families to find other **fun** opportunities for doing math **together**. We hope you will find that math is everywhere.

We are excited to see where Family Math will go next and invite you to make it your own. We wish you “Happy Math” – confidence, enjoyment, understanding and success with mathematics.

Mathematically yours,

Nancy, Patti, Dev and Judi

Family Math Canada Foundation

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