Family Math Newsletter
Primary Edition

Game:

Game of 9 Cards
(from *NCTM.org*)

Skills: mental math – addition
For two or more players.
Equipment: Nine cards – ace (1) to 9
Goal: Be the first person to hold three cards that add up to 15.
To begin, lay out all nine cards, face up, so the numbers are showing. Players take turns selecting one card at a time until someone has a sum of 15 or all cards are taken.
Note: You may end up with more than three cards in your hand, but you may only use three to make a combination sum of 15.
Questions to consider after playing a few rounds:
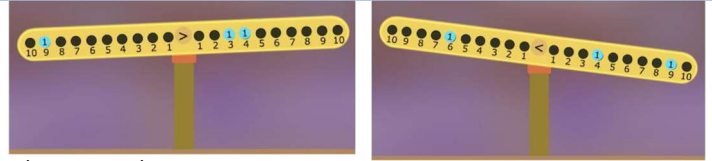Who is more likely to win, the first or second player? Why?
Does someone always win?
Are there ways to make sure that one does not lose?
Why is a sum of 15 used?
Is there a best card to use that give a player an advantage?

Math Talk: Adding or Subtracting

These scales are unbalanced. The blue circles represent a weight. Where could you hang a weight to make it balanced? Could you hang more than one weight and still make it balanced? Source: nrich

Taking Learning Outdoors:

Head outside and hide an object in your outdoor space. Next practice using clear and explicit directions to "code" each other to find the hidden object. Try using directional language, like left, right, east, west, north or south. Extend this by writing down the steps for your child to find the hidden object. An example of a treasure map algorithm could be as follows: Head right 10 steps. Then turn ¼ turn to the left. Walk 8 steps. Next turn ¼ turn to the right. Walk 5 steps. Look down and find the object.

Good Read/Watch or Listen:

Why is my child learning this?
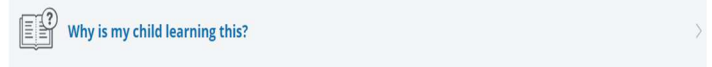
Embedded throughout the Ontario Math Curriculum for each strand, parents can find out the reasoning behind why their child is learning that concept or skill. This information will help support your discussions with your child about why math is important.

Problem Solving Tasks and Experiences

What is the colour of each shape?

Clues:
Pink is not next to red.
Yellow is between blue and red.
Green is not a square.
Yellow is on the right of orange.

Coding:

Looking for educational activities online? Hour of Code has many self-paced tutorials for students to work through and explore coding.