

The Dad Difference



April 2008

The official Dads Matter newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

Math: It's What Counts, Dad!

I know, I know, the title is a bit corny! However, we did want to get your attention focused on what the main topic for this quarterly newsletter because it represents a shift in our approach for the next several issues. We've decided to fill each edition for the next several quarters with ideas and resources that you can use to help your child's learning in specific topic areas. This time we'll be talking about math.

Something else that is new for this edition is that we are partnering with several teachers from the LaFayette School in writing the articles. This gives us you the chance to hear right

from the teacher the things they see as important for your child to be learning and they will also provide some suggestions on what you can do to help. As always, we're looking for ways to make this newsletter a good and interesting resource for you. If you ever have any additional questions or would like to let us know how the newsletter is helpful or where it could be better, please contact us at dadsmatter@privateindustrycouncil.com or call 724-437-2590.

As always, feel free to contact us for more information that can help you in your role as a parent because...Dads Matter!



"We need 40 pounds of pressure in this tire. There's 33 right now, so how many do we need?"

Dads Matter programs

Try one out today!

We can customize our programs to your group, church or organization



Dad 2 Dad
Every Monday 6:00pm to 7:30pm
at PIC Office at 480 Coolspring
Street in Uniontown. Our Dad 2

Dad parenting discussion groups are just right for dads and moms. Give us a call or just show up. We'll see you there! We can bring this or any other program to your group, church, or organization.



Daddy and Me at the Library
Monday, June 30th at 6:00 p.m. at the
Uniontown Library. You and your child
will enjoy a story read by the Uniontown

Library's storyteller, have a snack, and learn more about future fun educational opportunities for you and your child.



Doctor DAD
Call us for new dates and times! Dr.
Dad is perfect for those dads and
moms expecting a baby or who have
children under 2 years of age. This

evening series covers child health, safety, nutrition and more. Call ahead to reserve your seats today!

“I wasn’t good at math either...” But is that ok?

by Nicole Anderson, Lafayette School First Grade Teacher in Uniontown Area School District and Mindy Harris, Math Coach for Uniontown Area School District

“Math anxiety” is an emotional reaction to mathematics because of an unpleasant past experience. Math anxiety can harm future learning too.

Unfortunately, adults can remember many unpleasant experiences in math, so it’s very common for adults to have some level of math anxiety.

The best thing that we can do for our children is to be aware of any math anxieties we have and keep from passing along our fears to our children.

As parents you can take simple steps to help keep your child from being afraid of math. Talk to your child about how important math is to their future success in school and

work. Far too often parents use the excuse “I was never good at math either.” But as parents we should have high expectations for our children and be sure that they pursue high-quality math courses and enrichment programs. Even if you weren’t a great math student, don’t be afraid to ask to see your child’s homework to check their progress in math. Your children will enjoy telling you what they are learning in class.

Here are some basic math success skills by grade level. Children in first grade are learning addition and subtraction facts up to the number ten. These facts are generally mastered by the end of second grade. Third grade

teaches basic multiplication facts and fourth grade uses those facts for two digit multiplication. Fifth grade teaches all operations with whole numbers and fractions.

You can also encourage your child’s natural interest in math by pointing out daily situations where you use math.

Try these ideas today:

- Have your child recognize coins, learn their values, and count change at the store.
- Help your child decide what his/her allowance can buy.
- Use newspaper articles to analyze number data that interests your child.
- Share your mental math or estimation strategies.
- Sort grocery items into

groups by shape, add up how many of each there are.

Use fun + games to overcome math anxieties:

- Computer software or Internet sites can provide ideas or games for children.
- Use traditional games such as Go Fish, but instead of matching pairs of the same card, have your children match pairs that equal 6, 8, 10, or any rules you like.

These are just a few examples that can help your child with math. Hopefully this article will spark even more ideas for your own children. Be sure to support your children with their school work and tell them they can succeed with consistent hard work and determination.

LEARNING FOR LIFE

“Give a man a fish and he’s fed for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will be fed for a lifetime.”

- Unknown

“If you give your children all the answers to their homework, they will always need your help. If you help your children find the answers on their own, you make them lifelong learners”

- Bill Huebner

Atmosphere is everything!

by Robert Davis, Lafayette Middle School Math Teacher in Uniontown Area School District

Trying to succeed in school should not be limited to your child's time in school. Time to practice and read is needed to succeed in school too. Parents must provide atmosphere and attitude at home for the student to continue what was introduced at school. Do not allow a child to retreat to the bedroom where there are too many distractions. Give your child a place to study with good lighting and an area to safely place books and supplies. Pencils and a pencil sharpener, blank paper, and a calculator are needed in this area. Look after your child and provide a helping hand. Use encouragement and positive feedback even when your child



struggles. Trying is the most important step towards success because apathy and resignation are all too easy to fall into. Always reward your child's efforts not just the results. Many times if the student is suffering in math, the parents

will admit to struggling in math too. If you feel this way, must seek help if they themselves do not understand math. Don't tell your child you "hated math" or say "math failure is a family trait." Many students who are struggling to pass may

need more attention to basics of math. If your child learns the basics of math, then what they learn next builds on these basics and your child's skills will keep developing. Some children don't understand how important it is to attend school, to behave well, and to work hard. It is important your child understands that his or her efforts in school are not a waste of time but an investment in their future. Helping with homework may cause your child to ask for other advice. If you are worried about how to help your child learn, ask your child's teachers and school guidance counselors to give you ideas.

Math Magic

Can you solve the riddle? Solve the equations below and fill in the blanks of the "Hidden Statement" using the alphabet/number grid. The first one has been done for you.

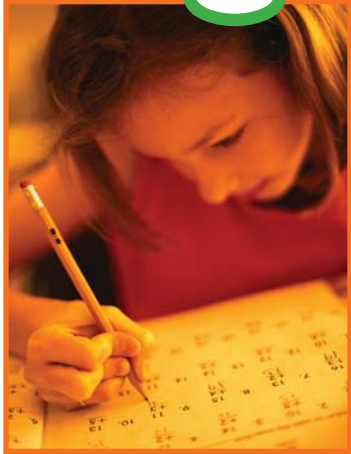
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- $10+3=$ 13
- $1+0=$ ___
- $11+9=$ ___
- $5+3=$ ___
- $3+6=$ ___
- $8+8=$ ___
- $2+4=$ ___
- $14+7=$ ___
- $5+9=$ ___
- $20+5=$ ___
- $10+5=$ ___
- $20+1=$ ___
- $2+1=$ ___
- $0+1=$ ___
- $7+7=$ ___
- $1+2=$ ___
- $9+6=$ ___
- $11+10=$ ___
- $8+6=$ ___
- $10+10=$ ___
- $7+8=$ ___
- $10+4=$ ___
- $4+5=$ ___
- $13+7=$ ___

Hidden statement:

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	'	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		

Homework Help?



Are you looking for more ways to help your child in math? Your first and best option is always your child's school. Make an appointment to meet with your child's math teacher. Ask them to show you what's being taught in the classroom.

For additional homework help, try the following options:

1. **Dare2XL** is an after-school tutoring program. The Private Industry Council currently offers **Dare2XL** in the Connellsville, Brownsville and Uniontown Area school districts.

The Dads Matter office is located...in the Private Industry Council office in the old North Union school building.

Address: 480A Coolspring Street, Uniontown PA 15401

Phone: 724-437-2590x322 Fax: 724-437-8159 E-mail: dadsmatter@privateindustrycouncil.com
Web: www.privateindustrycouncil.com

The Mission of Dads Matter of Fayette County is to:

"...enable fathers to improve their relationships with their children; improve parenting skills; and help fathers overcome barriers that often prohibit them from being effective and nurturing parents by providing them with training and learning opportunities."

Disclaimer:

(1) Dads Matter of Fayette County is a department of the Private Industry Council of Westmoreland/Fayette, Inc. Participation in Dads Matter of Fayette County is FREE and strictly voluntary.

(2) The Private Industry Council of Westmoreland/Fayette, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit corporation headquartered in Greensburg, PA.

(3) Funding for this project was provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Grant: 90FR0075/01.

(4) Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

2. **Other local tutoring programs** are offered through **The East End United Community Center, Young Inspiration** and the **YMCA**. Enrolling your child in any of these programs can help you and your children to better understand math.

3. Framingham.com

(<http://www.framingham.com/kids/math/index.htm>)

This Web site is just right for children who think they hate math. If you have access to the Internet, then check it out! It has several different links to help with a lot of math problems. You can tackle fractions, conversions, and many other math problems here.

4. **The PBS Homework Helpline** is on cable TV with the West Virginia PBS station. Students' math and other homework questions are worked on and answered by a certified teacher. Watch the show with your child, and if you like, you can call them with your questions! The show airs between 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Hey,

Parents...

with children from birth to age 5
(And pregnant moms too)

We're recruiting children for our
2008-2009 pre-school programs!

Call 724-430-4818
for more information



Head Start
Early Head Start
Of Fayette County

Solid Education
Qualified Staff
Family Activities
Family Supports

492 Coolspring Road - Uniontown, PA 15401

Head Start/Early Head Start of Fayette County is a department of the Private Industry Council of Westmoreland/Fayette, Inc.