



Games to Play with your Children to Develop Math Reasoning while Practicing Basic Facts

Compiled by Dr. Ruth Parker

Math games can be a wonderful source for developing mathematical reasoning while practicing basic facts. In *Math Games for Family Fun and Learning*, Ruth Parker lists nine favorites, and they're easy to find in stores. Repeatedly playing these games supports student learning and deepens understanding.

- **Set:** A card game of logic and visual perception that can be enjoyed by the whole family (ages 6 to adult). Adults, be forewarned that it can be humbling to play this game with youngsters.
- **Tangos:** A game that focuses on spatial relationships and that challenges the whole family, young and old alike.
- **Mastermind:** A game of logic enjoyed by both children and adults. Look for a version of Mastermind for younger children ages 6 and up.
- **Cribbage:** A wonderful card game played on a pegged board that develops skill in adding series of small numbers. The game is enjoyable for children of all ages.
- **Dominoes:** A game of strategy and numbers that children as young as 4 years of age can play as a number recognition game. Yet the regular game of dominoes is challenging for adults as well.
- **Mancala:** A challenging African stone game of logic for adults that can be adapted to meet the needs of children ages 5 and up.
- **Equate:** A game for reinforcing computation with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions. I haven't played this yet, but my nieces and nephews tell me it is challenging and fun.
- **Checkers/Chess:** Great games for developing skill with logical reasoning.

Thank you, Ruth. Mathematics Education Collaborative www.mec-math.org

Please visit <http://mathperspectives.com/developing-number-concepts/> for activities from *Developing Number Concepts* by Kathy Richardson that parents can use at home with their children.