

Workplace Readiness Skill

Professional Competency

Activity Sheet

Skill 17

Mathematics

People use math at work all the time and sometimes without realizing it. We need math to measure, figure out expenses, and follow a calendar. Working with numbers is an important job skill and building skills for work often starts at home.

Description of Mathematics

Having mathematical skills means applying math skills to complete activities and tasks at work.

Examples of using math skills:

- Use measuring spoons (fractions) to measure ingredients for cooking.
- Count the money in a cash register.

Menu of Activities

These activities are designed to help families discuss and practice mathematics. Choose one or more activities to complete with your child.

Activity 1: Math is in Our Everyday Life

1. Together, watch [Real Life Math](https://youtu.be/HtqllVN9bh8) (youtu.be/HtqllVN9bh8).
2. While watching the video see how many jobs you can think of within each math category named.

For example:

Under measurement, you might realize carpenters, construction workers, cooks, and architects need math skills. At the end of the video, you should have a list of jobs that require math skills.

3. For some, math comes easily. But for many, math is a skill that needs to be practiced. Pick one of these math sites to play a math game together. After all, math can be fun!
 - [Cool Math Games](https://coolmathgames.com) (coolmathgames.com) allow you to search by specific math skills and includes games on numeracy and logic skills.
 - [Softschools](https://softschools.com/math/games) (softschools.com/math/games) offers a variety of math games and practice activities related to basic math skills.

Activity 2: Cooking with Math

1. Cooking is something that often happens daily and requires math skills to follow a recipe. Together, pick a recipe to cook. This can be for a meal or dessert. Something new or something you have cooked before.
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2. Have your child follow the recipe with your help. Point out when your child has to use their math skills.

For example:

Measuring a cup of flour or estimating how many chocolate chips to add.

3. To make it challenging, have your child double or halve the recipe.
4. If you need to go to the store to buy the ingredients, work together to calculate the cost of the recipe.

Activity 3: **Let's Build Something**

1. Gather supplies to build a structure. This could be Legos, blocks, sticks, or other items you have laying around the house.
2. Tell your child to build a structure that is 1-foot tall (or any height of your choosing). Your child needs to build it by estimating how tall a foot is.
3. After the structure is complete, provide a ruler or tape measure. Have them measure it and see how close they were to a foot tall.
4. Now, give them the measuring device and tell them to build a 2-foot structure (or any height of your choosing).
5. Once they are done, ask them which structure was easier to build to the exact measurements that you requested.
6. Explain that having the correct materials and instruments is important in math!
7. Talk about what other mathematical instruments we use to make our work easier or more precise (calculators, clocks, and timers).

Reflection

Review the questions with your child and respond together after completing the activities.

- Did this information help your family better understand everyday mathematics?
- What was easy or hard about learning and practicing this skill?
- Why is this skill important to use at home and at work?
- How do we continue to practice this skill in the home and in the community?
- What additional information or resources do I need to continue to practice this skill?