



Math Course

Description of Program:

Celebrate the 15th Anniversary of Jon Scieszka's *Math Curse* with these fun math stories and activities. For ages 8 & up.

Program Plans:

To set the mood for this program, have School House Rock math videos playing as participants arrive. Read *Math Curse* and discuss how math surrounds us every day. Have the kids then write out their own math courses

to share with the group. Read other math books of your choice, interspersed with the other activities. End the program with a "four square" math game mini-tournament and snacks.

Stories:

Math Curse by Jon Scieszka

Did you ever wake up to one of those days where everything is a problem? You have 10 things to do, but only 30 minutes till the bus leaves. Is there enough time? You have 3 shirts and 2 pairs of pants -- can you make 1 good outfit? Don't worry -- it's just the Math Curse striking! An amusing book about dealing with numbers in everyday life.

Grapes of Math by Greg Tang

A clever collection of math puzzles with goofy humorous rhymes that will have children adding, subtracting and multiplying.

A Million Dots by Andrew Clements

It's a long way to a million, right? Of course it is. But do you really know what a million looks like? If you'd like to see -- actually see, right now, with your own eyes -- what a million looks like, just open this book.

Grandpa Gazillions Number Yard by Laurie Keller

If you ever thought numbers were only for counting, think again! At Grandpa Gazillions Number Yard, numbers have all sorts of uses that can come in handy when in a pinch.

Songs/Fingerplays:

"Three is a Magic Number" from School House Rock available on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxmKRyLdBho>

"Figure Eight" from School House Rock available on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jeq5a8bBh8c>

Crafts:

A String of Numbers: Beaded Bracelet

(This craft is available at

<http://jas.familyfun.go.com/arts-and-crafts?page=CraftDisplay&craftid=10044>)

Activities or Games:

4 Square Game (see attached sheet)

This game is played like connect four but with using multiplication as a way of claiming a square. The winner is the person who connects four numbers in a row, either up, down, or diagonally.

Buzz!

- Players take turns counting beginning with one. Every time a player gets to a number that's divisible by 7 or has a seven in it, they must say "buzz" instead of the number.
- If one person forgets to say "buzz" everyone has to start over.
- For a real challenge, try *Fuzz Buzz* . For every number with a three in it or that is divisible by three say "fuzz" in addition to replacing 7's.

(This activity can be found on: http://familyfun.go.com/games/indoor-outdoor-games/game/famfgam_buzz/)

Snacks:

Try these simple math activities with the kids while they are enjoying their snacks.

Estimating M&M's (small bags)

- Handout worksheet. (see attached)
- Give each participant one small bag of "M&M's" ® Candies. Don't let them open or touch the bags. Have the kids estimate how many candies are in their bags and have them each write down their number on the top of their paper.
- Now have the kids predict how many of each color they will get in their bag and write their prediction down. Make sure their total prediction for all the colors matches their original estimation of candies. (For example, a kid predicts there are 10 candies in their bag. They predict there are 3 red, 1 orange, 2 yellow, 1 green, and 3 brown. When added together these total 10.)
- Finally let the kids open their bags and record their actual total of candy and actual total of colors.
- Have each kid tell you the total of candies in their bag and write it down. As a group find the mean, median, and mode. If time allows figure out which color candy was more prevalent in the total group.

(This activity is available at

<http://score.hings.k12ca.us/lessons/mandm.html>)

Gumdrop Construction

Supplies: Gumdrops and Toothpicks

Let the kids use their creativity to build different three-dimensional geometric shapes using toothpicks and gumdrops.



Additional Resources (online & book)

- Littlefield, Cindy. *Real-World Math for Hands-On-Fun!* Charlotte, VT: Williamson Pub., 2001.

Connect Four

Horizontally, Vertically, or Diagonally to Win!

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	12	14
15	16	18	20	21	24
25	27	28	30	32	35
36	40	42	45	48	49
54	56	63	64	72	81

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

VS. _____

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

VS. _____

M & M's® Estimation

Please fill out the guess column below before you open or touch your M&M's® bag.

	Guess	Actual Count
Total Number of M&M's®		
# of Red Ones		
# of Green Ones		
# of Blue Ones		
# of Yellow Ones		
# of Orange Ones		
# of Brown Ones		

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