

March 22, 2019

Dear Families,

Young students first develop mathematical concepts through the manipulation of concrete objects and then learning the abstract symbols that represent them. For example, learning about the number five means developing a sense of what five objects looks like, that it is more than four objects, and that it is equal to three objects combined with two objects---and then they can understand what the digit 5 represents! This may appear to be simple to an adult, but numeracy concepts are complex and take time to develop.

Playing math games with children gives them opportunities to experience numbers in different ways while having fun. Playing math games at home can help your child increase his/her mental math skills, which in turn will enable him/her to solve problems mentally. The more children play math games, the more they become fluid math thinkers.

Try playing games with your children that involve counting and one-to-one correspondence, such as Candyland, Chutes and Ladders, and Trouble. Games involving two dice help children learn to add (especially doubles) quickly.

Here is a simple game, using two dice:

**Knock Out**

1. Each player chooses a “knock out number” – either 6, 7, 8, or 9. More than one player can choose the same number.
2. Players take turns throwing both dice. Add the sum of both dice for the score.
3. If a player throws their knockout number, they are knocked out of the game until the next round.

Here is another idea- Try the old-fashioned card game of “**War**,” but with a new twist:

Remove the picture cards from two decks. Instead of putting out one card, each player puts out two cards. The highest sum of the two cards wins!

Playing games with your children is a wonderful way to help them build skills in many areas---math, language, and social-emotional skills like turn-taking, delaying gratification, and demonstrating good sportsmanship. And you’ll have fun doing it!

On another note, Goosehill students will be learning more about the differences among people and the importance of respect and kindness towards those with special challenges. In recognition of World Autism Month, we will be engaging the children in lessons about autism to help them understand some of challenges people face every day and especially to help them understand the fact that all children—those with and without disabilities- love the same things—playing, laughing, learning, and friendship. I will share the titles of the books and links to the video clips that we share with the children next week.

Warm regards,

Lynn Herschlein