



Summer is a great time to enjoy Math Games and reverse the Math 'Summer-Slide'



Children enjoy a long summer vacation and play a lot of internet games on their own. Still they are on the lookout to **have fun playing fun math and thinking games with other kids or adults.**

Did you know kids lose on average 10 weeks of math knowledge over the summer? Usually referred to as the '**Math Slide**'. There are many fun filled math summer camps that focus on math concepts using games and riddles instead of math facts. You can take action at home too: keep the patterns, shapes and numbers going to make sure kids love math. Enjoy playing board games, card games, dice, and domino games. Kids love to discuss their best strategies and to keep score, a math activity in itself.

Hands-on board games are a great way to introduce younger kids to patterns and numbers. You can adapt the games to make sure all kids can participate, consider starting with counting and sorting everyday objects. For best math learning, in general **do not emphasize speed** before the math facts are memorized and easily retrieved (automatized), better **ask what they think** and **share your strategies.**

Children **enjoy making their own playing cards** from note cards. Let them be creative with colored markers making **dot patterns, shapes, numbers, money notations etc.** use stickers etc. there are endless options, that all will add to the fun. You can use self made cards with dots or numbers or store bought playing cards to learn patterns, numbers, counting, and calculating while playing a game:

1. make stacks **counting backward** from a number;
2. stack cards with **one more and one less**, like with 'Blink';
3. turn cards and make **rows** that add up to **five, ten, another number** etc.
4. **guess a card** (dots, shapes, numbers, money) by asking yes/no questions
5. **add/subtr./multiply/divide** two consecutive cards to play war;
6. play '**go fish**' or '**spoons**' with your own cards
7. play **memory** (turn over the cards to find pairs - like equivalent fractions in pictures)
8. start a **pattern** with **colors, shapes, or numbers** and try to find the next card



When you go for the store bought games, here are some suggestions for card games and board games for visual perception and math.

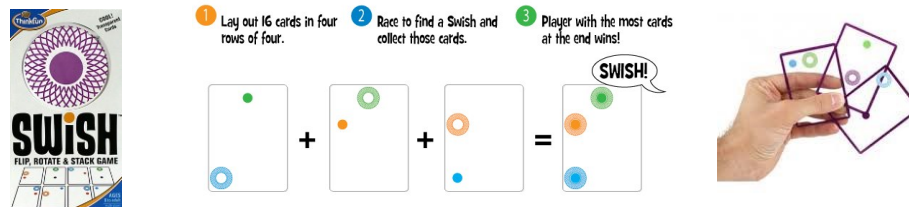
➤ Visual perception, patterns, and concentration

SET is an award winning family game of **visual perception**, using patterns and shapes, no numbers. There is also Set Junior from age 3 by Marsha Falco at SET Enterprises. You're in for hours of brain training fun!



IOTA has cute cards in a small tin, great as travel game. Search and combine patterns, colors and shapes, for 2 - 4 players, from age 8. The kids sharpen their brain without realizing it. (from Gamewright)

SWISH has funny transparent cards and is about location: without realizing the kids understand slides, turns, and flips (translation, rotation, reflection) and combinations. For older elementary till adults for younger children try SWISH Junior.

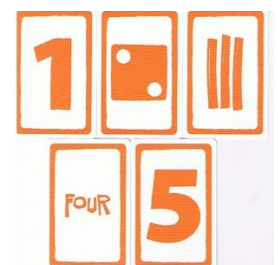


❖ **Subitizing (recognizing a small quantity without counting), patterns and numbers**

BLINK has game suggestions and the cards can be used to play all sorts of games with younger kids, who do not read numbers yet, like 'one more' and 'one less'. A great way to practice number patterns to five.



PHASE 10 is a card sorting game, the cards do not look 'cluttered' and can be used for other Math games too.



RATUKI has cards using different symbols to show 1 to 5, there are several sets with different colors. So they can be used for sorting by younger kids as well. The original rules say you need to make stacks (as many stacks simultaneously as there are players) with increasing numbers, using your own draw pile and 'junk' pile with at most 3 cards in your hands. Sounds easy, but the stacks are always changing: enjoy!

And obviously you can play all these games using a set of **UNO cards** too, be creative!

EVEN STEVEN'S ODD MATH GAME to learn the faces of the dice by subitizing instead of counting, during play with fast repeated rolling of the dice to get the combination on a game card. (by Smilemakers).



DOMINOES is an age old strategy game that children as young as 4 years of age can play by using pictures or colored dots. Think about learning the doubles in a fun way and finding visual patterns. The regular game of dominoes can be challenging for adults too. There are numerous **domino games** for math too: **fraction domino**, **equivalency domino** etc., both as store bought games or downloadable from educational websites.

- ❖ **HexHive** is a nice puzzle for one using visual spatial skills to practice adding up numbers to seven by placing different transparent shapes in your hive

❖ **Math fact practice with a twist**

QUICK PIX is another award winning game, for age 7 and up. It focuses on **addition and subtraction till 20**. You need to find the right answer card for your question cards. You can play for speed, but better is to go for correctness, ask for the strategy they used. **Also available for multiplication/division** and **Money** (by Aristoplay)



LIGHTNING FAST MATH for **addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division** to combine cards of the same color and operation; starting from age 5 and up for 3 - 5 players. For younger players hold off on the multiplication and division cards. Emphasize correctness over speed, let a player call 'add' or 'take away' first, then give time to work it out. (by Continuum Games)

SMATH is a family game for max. 4 players like Scrabble, but with numbers. Choose addition, subtraction, multiplication, division or all, for younger players stick to add and subtract only, older can include brackets (by Pressman)



MANCALA for Kids comes in various types with child friendly counters

MAKE 7 is a game with a standing frame to drop numbered disks in that add up to seven, kids love to see the disks drop through the round openings in the standing frame! (by Pressman)



SHUT THE BOX GAME is a strategy game adding the numbers on two dice



PRIMEBOMB became an instant hit with kids learning multiplication and division as well as prime factorization: use strategy to decide which combination of cards to keep in your hand to catch the next green prime number card with red composite number cards (till 50) and vice versa, another great game from this author is called **Pyramath** combining addition and multiplication

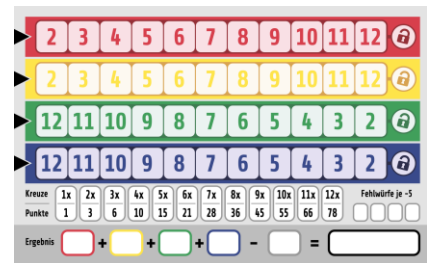


TEN FRAME TOWERS

Ten frames are widely used in math and chances are your PreK -2nd grade children already know them. Since there are **no written numbers involved**, you can use this game with 4 and 5 year olds. The Ten Frame Towers game shows the ten bonds with stacking manipulatives. Also great for younger kids to do sorting games, learning odd and even or **pressing number patterns in play-dough**.

❖ QWIXX

Qwixx is a versatile game with six dice, that is easy to learn. The color of the dice helps to decide your strategy to score the most points. There is no 'downtime' between rolls, you can play on every turn. For 2-5 players age 8 and up, game time 15 - 20 minutes, by GameWright



❖ Learning place value



SPEED PLACE VALUE, by Educational Insights, please always emphasize correctness over speed!

❖ War

MATH WAR There are many variations of this game: from addition and subtraction to multiplication and division war. You can use home made or any type regular playing cards or use these specially designed cards for multiplication or division.

Always **keep it fun**, try to resist the urge to use the cards as 'traditional flash cards'! That may send the wrong message that math is mainly about speed and rote memory. Do you know **random math facts speeds drills are associated with math anxiety from first grade**? We want our kids to like math, take the time to think about numbers and learn to reason: use a math fact they already know to find out about a related fact that is still (relatively) new to them. Playing cards can spark a conversation about how they arrived at the answer and how the opponent checked it. You can chime in pointing out a strategy that applies to that calculations. Don't forget to **praise the thinking over getting it fast!**



❖ Board games

The very best games are the games you and your children design yourself! There are many free templates to download, making game cards involving numbers, money etc. is learning math too!

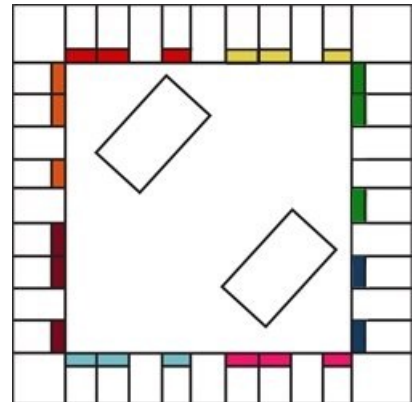
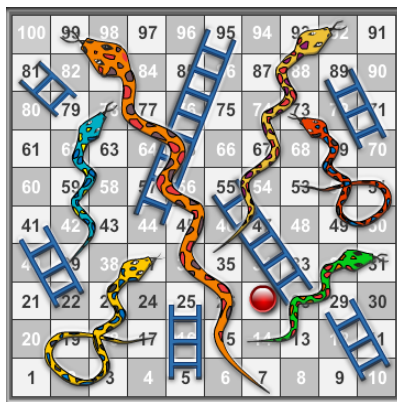
SNAKES AND LADDERS is an all time favorite, you can even make your own

MONOPOLY comes in a great number of formats, related to sports clubs, cities, your family's experience or make your own game board (empty template at www.printablee.com)

CANDY LAND many children will be enticed to play this well known board game

LIFE is another great family game that can spark conversations about managing money

Below is just a small selection of the large number of board games from the internet either ready to play or that you can (let your children) personalize or make your own **shapes or number Bingo** or **Memory**.



CONTIG GAME AND CONTIG JUNIOR GAME

An addition strategy game for three dice, game board free download at www.mathwire.com, select Topics - Games - Number Sense Games - Contig. Try their **TRIBULATION GAME** too!



❖ Fraction games

To make your own 'pizza fractions', consider folding and cutting **cake doilies** or use **origami paper** for square fraction models.



PIZZA FRACTION FUN games are available from several producers such as Learning Resources or Scholastic

- ❖ several games are possible like how many ways are there to make a whole pizza
- ❖ identify and match equivalent fractions
- ❖ using double sided pizza pieces can show addition of fractions

FROG POND FRACTIONS GAME the frog teaches the beginning concepts of fractions, the relationship of parts to wholes. Game promotes quick play and offers hands-on learning with squeezable, solid foam fraction pieces. People with multiple skill levels can play together and game adapts as skills progress, by Trend Croak.

FRACTION FORTRESS stacking reveals the equivalent fractions (Junior Learning)



FRACTION FORMULA GAME is a hit! For students who already have a basic understanding of fractions. The fractions make noise sliding into the test tube adds to the suspense: is it going to fit or are you bust?

FREE-RANGE FRACTIONS GAME: shows all possible fractions with 12 halve white and half brown eggs. First you select the proper denominator rings, than you show the numerator with the color of the eggs, answers are on the back of the cards (careful the fraction rings are a bit flimsy) from Educational Insights



FRACTAZMIC is one of our favorite fraction games to learn equivalent fractions in a visual way: make a whole egg carton with a dozen eggs, a full liter water bottle, and a whole inch using $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, and $\frac{1}{16}$ inches. Can be played with original rules or you can make your own to accommodate younger kids.



ALLOWANCE is a fun way to use real life examples to practice calculating and planning with money.

CONNECT FOUR is a classic that many kids enjoy and that involves spatial thinking and strategy.



❖ For the pro's

THE 24 GAME by Suntex International is more complex and will appeal to older students and adults; it has several variations to make 24, the dots in the corner indicate level 1, 2, or 3, this is how many points you get when you can solve that card. Ages 11 and up.

- ❖ Original 24 game with whole numbers
- ❖ 24 game with fractions / decimals
- ❖ 24 game with double digits



There are many many other interesting math and thinking games, check out Rush Hour and other hands-on games from ThinkFun, and don't overlook our classic thinking games: **TANGRAM, MASTERMIND, CHECKERS, AND CHESS** and visit our website <http://www.DyscalculiaServices.com> for a list of favorite Math apps

