Math Moment…

Supporting Your Child's Learning in Math at Home with Number Talks

Is it still important for children to learn their addition and multiplication tables? Yes! However, the way students learn these math facts may be different than the way most adults learned. Rather than memorizing math facts, the focus is on helping children develop efficient, accurate and flexible thinking strategies.

Number Talks help students build a toolbox of efficient thinking strategies over time. These strategies are important because:
1.) they provide a quick way to determine an answer if a child forgets a fact and;
2.) the same strategies apply to larger numbers, fractions, decimals, and algebra.

Put down your pencil and calculator and try applying the Make 10 strategy to solve the following problems:

9 + 8	"9 plus 1 is 10, and 7 more is 17."
19 + 8	"19 plus 1 is 20, and 7 more is 27."
59 + 28	"59 plus 1 is 60, and 27 more is 87."
299 + 28	"299 plus 1 is 300, and 27 more is 327."
3998 + 326	"3998 plus 2 is 4000, and 324 more is 4324."
3.99 + 0. 18	"3.99 plus 0.01 is 4, and 0.17 more is 4.17."

Great thinking! You can support this type of learning at home. You can do so by playing math games with your child. For example, play Make 10 Go Fish. Use a regular deck of cards with the face cards removed. Rather than matching two of the same number, match two numbers that add to 10. This game will prepare your child to use the Make 10 strategy.

You can also talk to your child about what he or she is doing in math class. Ask your child how he or she solved a problem when you look over math papers. Focus on good thinking strategies, rather than quick answers. Always let children know mistakes are opportunities to learn. Lastly, try Number Talks at home. It's a great family activity when riding in a car.

Check out April's Math Problem! Share your strategies with @PVNCCDSB using #PVNCLearns #PVNCMath!

- Each classroom is welcome to modify the question to meet the needs of their students.
- Consider having a similar challenge in the entrance/corridor of the school for parents, guests, staff members, and students to contribute to.

How can you solve for the mass of the bread, cheese, and ketchup?

For more tasks and challenges like this, visit MashupMath.com.