

Think Outside the Box



We like to encourage WCGS parents to think "outside the box" with activities for their child to apply the knowledge, skills, and concepts being learned for a deeper dive than just doing more math, or more reading, more, more, more ...

With that in mind, here are some ideas parents have appreciated to enrich **MATHEMATICAL** understanding and application:

- ◇ Involve your child in real-life math situations through cooking, following recipes, shopping online, grocery shopping, pumping gas, etc.
- ◇ Engage with your child over math related, hands-on games such as Mathopoly, Sequence Numbers, Sumoku, etc.
<http://www.mathsinsider.com/math-board-games/>
- ◇ Have your child create their own math manipulatives for homework studying and practice – For example: Make your own addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division flash cards by putting the related math facts on each side. Side A: $4+6=10$ or $6+4=10$, Side B: $10-6 = 4$ or $10-4=6$; Side A: $3 \times 7=21$ or $7 \times 3=21$, Side B: $21 \div 3=7$ or $21 \div 7=3$.
- ◇ Create your own dice game to practice place value and carrying out operations with larger numbers. For example - Roll anywhere from 2, 3 or 4 dice and arrange the digits into the ones, tens, hundreds, or thousands place. Roll the dice again; arrange the digits again and then carry out an operation (add, subtract, multiply or divide) with the two numbers
- ◇ Ask your child “thin” and “thick” questions about math related concepts. For example: Thin Question - When we go to Grandma’s this weekend, how long will we be in the car if we leave at 9 am and arrive at Noon? Thick Question - How long do you think it would take if we didn’t have our own car and we had to walk, bike, or take public transportation like some people have to do sometimes?
- ◇ See an additional document listing math websites and online learning options from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)

We would also recommend the same approach to enrich Avery's reading habits, decoding skills, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, and working memory. Here are some ideas parents have utilized and students have benefitted from:

- Expose your child to reading age appropriate poetry, lyrics, and rhymes to develop phonetic awareness and vocabulary
- Play word games to develop the understanding of how words are made, syllables, and roots such as: Scrabble, Banana Grams, Boggle, Zingo, <http://www.wordgametime.com/word-games>
- Ask you child to read aloud to you! Reading to another person and discussing what is read is great practice to develop fluency while reinforcing decoding and comprehension skills. This can be done easily during family devotional time, a parent-child book study, or with magazines specifically for children.
- Ask open-ended questions that require critical thinking and explanations about what your child reads, views, and talks about. Helping your child improve their reading and working memory helps them build a bridge to existing knowledge and new knowledge.