



SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN MATH LEARNING

Children develop best when they learn in early childhood settings *and* in the home. Families play a big part in supporting children's math learning through conversations and routines at home, everyday activities, and math games and cultural activities. Communicating and forming partnerships with families is key to making this happen. Here are some ideas to form family partnerships and encourage math learning!

- **Invite parents or other family members, including elders, to socialization events:** Encourage math concepts, including subitizing, during the socialization. Follow-up with send home activities for families to do with their child.
- **Create a newsletter:** Create a family newsletter or handout. Use the newsletter or handout to encourage parents to practice number recognition and subitizing by providing an at-home game for the family to play with the child.
- **Virtual blog:** Create a blog to let families know which math, number recognition, and subitizing skills their child can work on. Emphasize children's new levels of math thinking. Suggest at-home activities each week.
- **Home activities:** Share math activities and games with parents, suggesting some items in the home parents can use to play with their child. This lets families know how their intentional interactions with children help facilitate math learning.
- **Math bag:** Help parents find math materials around the home that they can use to practice number recognition and subitizing and keep them in a special math bag that will be ready for use! This helps families understand how to use math in everyday activities. Consider writing a number book with the parent to read with the child.
- **Cultural activities:** Identify math concepts children learn in cultural activities. Use Making It Work to identify these concepts and share them with parents and families. Making It Work provides examples of engaging families, elders, and the community: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/making-it-work-implementing-cultural-learning-experiences-american-indian>
- **Tribal language:** Incorporate tribal language whenever possible when talking about math.

