



More About Math

Background for Leaders

This unit focuses on time and money skills for 6- 8-year-olds. As children complete the learning activities they will explore jobs needed to make a movie such as production assistant (keeps track of the daily schedule), caterer (makes snacks for the crew) and accountant (manages the money).

Time

Children in first and second grades should practice telling time, both on analog and digital clocks. Children learn how to tell time on the hour (using language like 3 o'clock or 4 o'clock), and then move on to telling time on the half hour (using language like seven thirty or half past eight). It is important for children to understand there are 60 minutes in an hour, and that half of an hour is 30 minutes. Using a digital clock, children need to recognize the difference between the numbers to the left and the right of the colon; on an analog clock, they must understand the difference between the hour hand and the minute hand of the clock. With practice, children will tell time to the quarter of an hour (using vocabulary like a quarter after three or a quarter of four), and eventually, to the nearest five minutes, using the strategy of counting by fives.



As they become comfortable telling time, children learn to order different events by time to create a schedule. They also learn to determine elapsed time (amount of time passed) by adding and subtracting. Help children understand that there are 24 hours in a day and that AM refers to times after midnight and until 11:59 in the morning, and PM refers to times from noon until 11:59 at night.

Money

Children ages 6 to 8 should know the names and values of U.S. currency: coins and dollar bills. They should also be able to add these values together. Combining coins of the same value is generally easier because children can skip count (for example, skip count by fives using nickels or skip count by ten with dimes).

Children can use different strategies to help them add and subtract with money. Encourage them to draw pictures or use manipulatives (blocks, beans, counters, etc.). You can also assist children when counting up from one number to a higher number. For example, if a child has 25 cents and needs 35 cents, he or she can count by ones from 25 to get to 35 and determine what coin(s) are needed to make the difference. At this age children should learn the difference between a dollar sign and a cent sign and recognize the purpose of the decimal point.

Working with money offers rich opportunities to introduce vocabulary, like budget, change, and exact amount. A budget is the amount of money that you have to spend. Change is the amount that you get back when you pay for an item. Having the exact amount means that you have neither too much nor too little money.