

Outdoor learning for early years and elementary: math

While at school children have access to a huge variety of amazing resources to assist them in learning. However, there are so many objects that you can use in your house and garden to aid their learning. This document provides some ideas of how to use recycled and natural materials in some fun, hands-on math activities!

Suitable for ages: pre-school to grade 4 (and beyond!)

Curriculum links:

- Links can be made throughout the math curriculum. The math curriculum can be accessed here: <https://education.alberta.ca/mathematics-k-6/program-of-studies/?searchMode=3>

Instructions

What you will need checklist:

- Recycled materials (anything will do)
- Access to an outdoor space – a garden or local park

Activity ideas and curriculum links:

Number bonds with natural materials (stick leaves to paper for this?) Developing number sense (kindergarten, grade 1, 2). Use natural and recycled materials to represent numbers.



Understanding of repeating patterns (kindergarten, grade 1, 2, 3). Create repeating patterns out of natural and recycled materials.



Addition, subtraction, one more and less, number bonds using natural and recycled materials (grade 1, 2, 3)



Measurement using nonstandard units (grade 2, 3). Measure everyday objects and distances using sticks, your hands, or anything you can find!



Understanding of fractions (grade 3, 4, 5, 6). Make a mud/snow pie and cut it into pieces.

Understanding of money. Set up a shop using food from your kitchen, or set up a mud kitchen and restaurant in the garden. Make price tags and ask children to handle real money to develop addition and subtraction awareness and life skills (kindergarten to grade 6)

Did you know?

70% of Calgary's blue cart waste is sorted by machines; the rest is sorted by humans!

Share with us!

We would love to see photos of your low-waste crafts and activities at home. Feel free to tag us or hashtag #GreenCalgary in your social media posts! Find us here:

