



## 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, math games, and cultural activities. Communicating and forming partnerships with families are key to making this happen. Here are some ideas to help you partner with families to help children learn math!

- **Invite parents, family members, and elders to the classroom:** Invite family members and elders to share traditional games, such as those found through the International Traditional Games Society: <https://www.traditionalnativegames.org/games-flip-book>. Show families the math concept of subitizing. To follow up, send home an activity for the child and family member to do together.
- **Create a newsletter:** Create a family newsletter. Use it to explain which math concepts the child is working on and provide an at-home activity for the family to do with the child.
- **Virtual blog:** Create a blog to let families know what their children are doing in the classroom. Update it weekly, for example, to show more specifically what children did in class that week. Emphasize children's recent math development. Offer suggestions for at-home activities each week.
- **Family math night:** Invite families to attend a family math night (or morning). Show them the math concepts you are teaching in the classroom, along with fun games to play at home. You can also practice those games during family math event. If a family member cannot attend the event, invite him or her to attend class when you are teaching a math concept. Follow up with additional math activities.
- **Family conferences:** Use conferences to show families the math concepts their child is learning. Show them the math activities you are doing in the classroom to help them understand what the child is learning.
- **Math bag:** Fill a bag with math materials, to help families understand how to include math in everyday activities. This also lets families know what their child is doing in class. Include math activities and games for the children to play with their families and a subitizing book for families and children to read together or consider writing a number book with the children. Make several math bags and rotate them among children.
- **Use Making It Work to find ways to use cultural activities to engage families, elders, and the community in math learning:** <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/making-it-work-implementing-cultural-learning-experiences-american-indian>

