

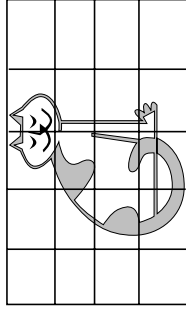
The Big Picture

Your child can create a picture by using this simple technique. Select a favorite snapshot that you would like to have enlarged.

Have your child:

- ◆ Draw 1-centimeter squares on tracing paper to form a grid like the one shown.

Over the Break



- ◆ Place the tracing paper over the snapshot. Then trace the outline and details of the photograph onto the tracing paper.

- ◆ Next, make a grid of 2-centimeter squares on drawing paper. Use the lines on the tracing paper as a guide for drawing the picture on the larger grid. When completed, you will have an enlarged picture that you can frame.

- ◆ Measure the perimeter of the enlargement. Measure and cut paper strips from colored construction paper. The strips can be glued together to make a picture frame.

On a Budget

Keeping a record of expenses is a good way for your child to practice adding and subtracting with decimals. Have him or her set up a budget like the one shown. The second column should include any money received as an allowance, job earnings, or gift money. The third column should be a record of money spent.

- ◆ At the end of the break, ask your child to total each column, then subtract the totals to get a difference.
- ◆ Have your child take the total of the amount spent and divide it by the number of days that the budget was kept. This will show an average of how much money was spent each day.

Date	Money	
	Earned	Spent
5/7	10	6
5/14	30	17
5/21	15	14
5/28	27	20
6/3	30	30
6/10	33	5

A Numbers Game

Encourage your child to think about how numbers are used and the sizes of numbers involved by doing these simple activities.

- ◆ Keep a daily record of the largest and smallest numbers your child can find in the newspaper. Write the number, and record how many digits are used in the number. At the end of the break, determine what the largest number was and what it measured. Challenge your child to write the number in words.
- ◆ Go on a number hunt in your home and community. Write down examples of things that can be measured in ones, tens, hundreds, thousands, ten thousands, hundred thousands, millions, and billions. Challenge your child to choose one number in the billions and write it in expanded form.

Fraction of a Day

Have your child keep a schedule of his or her activities for one or more days during the break. Each hour in a 24-hour period should be accounted for. Your

child can figure out what fraction of time is spent on each activity. Here's how:

- ◆ Total the number of hours in the schedule. Then total the number of hours spent on each activity such as playing, eating, sleeping, and using the computer.
- ◆ For example, if your child keeps a schedule for 3 days, the total hours would be 72 hours. Reduce fractions to lowest terms when possible. Fractions should be written like the following:

$$\text{Sleeping: } 24 \text{ hours} \quad \frac{24}{72} = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\text{Eating: } 6 \text{ hours} \quad \frac{6}{72} = \frac{1}{12}$$

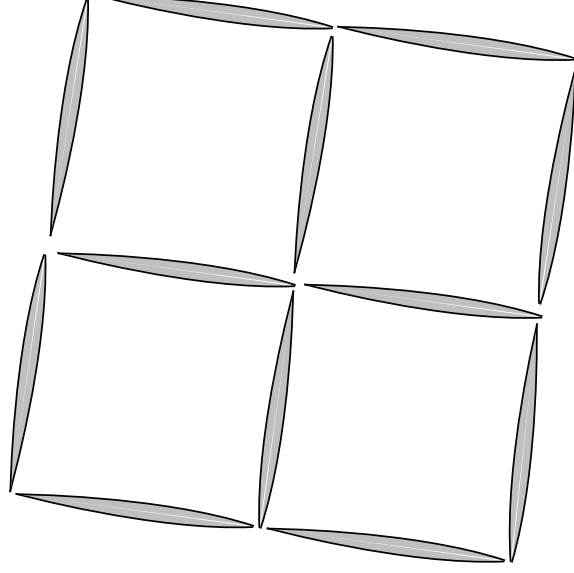
$$\text{Using the Computer: } 16 \text{ hours} \quad \frac{16}{72} = \frac{2}{9}$$

- ◆ Use the fractions to ask questions such as, "How much more time do you spend sleeping than using the computer?" Your child adds or subtracts fractions to find the results.

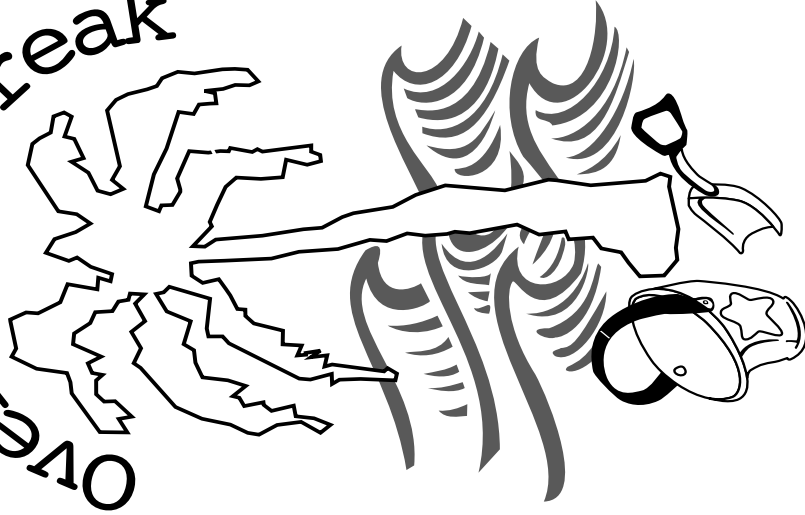
Crazy Squares

- ◆ Try this logic puzzle with your child. Use toothpicks grouped as shown. Move three of the toothpicks to make 3 squares of the same size.

- ◆ Have children use toothpicks to show a trapezoid, a rhombus, and a parallelogram.
- ◆ Members of the family can try making up their own logic puzzles using geometric shapes.



Of The Break



The following activities suggest ways in which you can use math during the school break to keep your child "Math Sharp." Each activity provides an opportunity for your child to practice and reinforce math skills learned.