

Relevancy

If your child can finally understand the value of computation when he makes change at the store or calculates distance on a map, he'll/she'll have learned a far more meaningful and lasting mathematical lesson than simply memorizing his fours.

Encourage your child's interest in sports statistics as a way of collecting data and analyzing it, and don't shy away from having a kid use a calculator to do it. You can also mention to your child that real world mathematicians and scientists use calculators and math computations on a regular basis. Here are a few examples of how to maintain relevancy in summer learning activities.

- Look for an old tree stump with rings. Count them (use a magnifying glass if necessary), then calculate back to when the tree was the age of your child. Look up what was happening in the world at that time.
- Interview relatives about family history, then plot dates on a timeline of world history printed from the Internet. What was happening when your relatives first came to the U.S., got married, had kids, and so forth?
- Take your kids on a tour of family history and photos
- A family vacation is a perfect opportunity to create a trip scrapbook that will be a lasting souvenir of family adventures. Collect postcards, brochures and menus from restaurants and tourist attractions.
- Encourage your child to write descriptions of the places you visited and tell stories about your family's escapades. Or suggest a scrapbook on your child's favorite sports team or a chronicle of his year in school. The scrapbook might contain photos with captions, newspaper clippings or school mementos.