

Words Have Powerful Meanings

Some words bring happy images to our heads while others create fear. Math... now there's a word. Judging by the reactions I've seen, it quite often creates fear, or at least doubt. The Canadian Council on Learning just released a *Survey of Canadian Attitudes Toward Learning*. This survey shows that Canadians believe it is very important for young children to have positive attitudes toward learning. But how do we help young children develop positive attitudes toward math when we ourselves, may not have one? Start by turning the things you do at home everyday into fun math experiences.

Help children learn:

- **patterns and relationships** by letting them sort the laundry, cutlery or groceries
- **numbers and basic skills** by teaching and playing card games or number bingo
- **shapes** by pointing them out in the environment and naming them
- **counting** by counting as you go up steps or counting out how many spoons are needed to set the table
- **measurement** by having a variety of containers in the bath for pouring or a growth chart to record the heights of family members
- **that you believe they can do math!**

There is not such thing as a “math brain”, most of us are born able to learn to do math. So...let the math times roll!

The Survey of Canadian Attitudes Toward Learning is available in PDF format at:
www.ccl-cca.ca

For more information about early learning, call the Ontario Early Years Centre or Early Literacy Specialist in your area.