

# Teaching Primary Math with Confidence and Joy

- Focus on number sense
  - Counting
  - Subitizing (knowing “how many” without counting)
  - Place-value
  - Addition
  - Subtraction
- Keep your lessons short
  - Preschool: 5 minutes
  - Kindergarten: 10-15 minutes
  - First grade: 15-20 minutes
  - Second grade: 20-25 minutes
- Add movement, especially for counting activities
  - Jump, stomp, clap, toss a ball...
  - Arrange number cards for number paths, relay races, scavenger hunts
- Think outside the desk
  - Snack time
    - How many do you have?
    - How many are left?
    - How many do we each get?
  - Outdoor time
    - Chalk
    - Nature walks
    - Playground challenges
  - Craft time
    - Measure lengths
    - Estimate materials
    - Count out supplies
  - Read-aloud picture books about math
- Use hands-on manipulatives
  - Coins and play money
  - Counters
  - Clock
  - Ruler
  - Deck of cards
  - Dice
  - Index cards
  - Pattern blocks
  - Base-ten blocks (for first/second graders)
- Use concrete language and real-world situations
  - Pretend store
  - Pretend restaurant

- Don't let writing get in the way of learning math
  - Fine-motor skills (and stamina!) still developing.
  - Little to no writing in preschool or kindergarten
  - Scribbling or oral answers fine throughout 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
  - Number reversals are common
- Play games for practice
  - Go Fish: regular, make 10, make 20, make 100...
  - War: 1-digit, 2-digit, addition, subtraction...
  - Board and card games: Chutes and Ladders, Rack-O, Clumsy Thief, Cribbage, Tiny Dots
- Don't let reading get in the way of learning math
  - Read directions and word problems aloud
  - Hover nearby while your child completes "independent" work
- Don't worry when you hit a wall
  - Kids' brains mature in fits and starts

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## Learn more about Math with Confidence

Visit [kateshomeschoolmath.com/mwc](http://kateshomeschoolmath.com/mwc) or  
the Well-Trained Mind Booth in the vendor hall.

