



Super-sleuth

How to help your child become a math detective

by JOANNE SALLAY



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MARK BEAUCHAMP

Joanne Sallay

is the president and CEO of Teachers on Call (teachersoncall.ca), a Canadian in-home and online tutoring service that provides learning support by professional certified teachers.

COSTCO CONNECTION

Costco warehouses and Costco.ca are filled with items to help your young students practice their math skills.



Does your child ask why they need to learn math? Leading a tutoring service, I know first-hand this question is popular, especially when students don't understand school-work. It's important for kids to keep an open mind to build numerical skills.

Math is all around us. Try engaging your child's curiosity and creativity outside the classroom to become a math detective. Just like private eyes, students need to take time to explore and ask questions. Here are examples to start a math investigation.

Take a savvy shopping trip

As a Costco member, I often multi-task shopping as a financial literacy activity with my kids. We prepare a grocery list and review sale items. In the warehouse we continue to compare prices and ask questions. When costs increase over time, we discuss inflation with digestible numbers. Parents can scratch the surface or delve deeper with questions.

Stop to count the roses on a math walk

Math walks involve travelling between locations while working on a series of ques-

tions. They can take place anywhere with the intention of spotting math and science in local surroundings. Costco member Ron Lancaster, professor emeritus at the University of Toronto and math trails expert, says, "By bringing the math classroom to the outside world, it gives students a sense for where math is used. The primary benefit is math goes into their hearts and they feel it's worth learning about."

Flex your math muscles playing sports

Connecting the dots with sports is relatable for kids. Take 9-year-old Jack, an aspiring pro golfer from Kelowna, British Columbia. According to his mother, Costco member Sarah Grant, "Jack gets very excited to explain how math relates to golf, from scoring [and] understanding yardages to strategizing which clubs to use based on distances." When Jack's not golfing, he curls and skis, using angles and speed. Connecting this love of sport and math has helped boost his engagement in learning.

Now that your student investigator has the analytical tools and techniques in place, encourage them to ask questions. ■

Plan a math trail

Try these math walk ideas.

Explore nature. Re-discover your backyard, park or local trail. Use your

senses to look for symmetry in leaves and listen to birds for patterns.

Play games. Play I Spy or go on a scavenger hunt to search for signs

or objects of different measurements and sizes.

Take field trips. Visit a museum or gallery to analyze normal and geometric shapes in art.—JS