

Summer is a time for fun Math games

Students with dyscalculia need more practice with math facts and concepts. Often flashcards are not an effective teaching strategy for them. Teach math facts, and build fact fluency and accuracy with math games. Playing games has many advantages: it promotes communication about math, it provides immediate checks for errors, and it is more fun. Students do not feel they are practicing facts over and over, and often they stay focused longer. Both one on one or small group games and internet games or apps. are helpful. Below are some examples from the vast number of options.

1. Card games

Blink is used to practice the dice patterns to five, and promotes subitizing, recognizing the number in a blink instead of using counting, look at Ratuki for more ways to play



Phase 10 is a card sorting game, the cards are not cluttered and can be used for other Math games



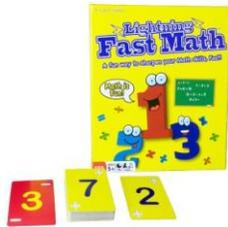
(See more play suggestions at Ratuki)

Ratuki has cards using different symbols to show 1 to 5, sets with several colors. The original rules say you need to make stacks (as many stacks simultaneously as there are players) with increasing numbers, using your own draw pile and 'junk' pile and max. 3 cards in your hands.

- Other ways of playing to learn:
1. stacks **counting backward** from 5;
 2. stacking cards with **one more and one less**, like with blink;
 3. **adding** two consecutive cards to play war;
 4. turning cards and make **rows** that add up to **five** (1+1+1+2) etc.
 5. turning cards and make **rows** that add up to **ten** (2+3+5) etc
 6. **multiply** two consecutive cards to play war



Quick Pix is another award winning game, for age 7 and up. It focuses on addition and subtraction till 20. You need to find the right answer card for your question cards. You can play for speed, better to go for correctness.



Lightning Fast Math (by Continuum Games) for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of cards of the same color and operation; starting age 5+ for 3 - 5 players, for younger players put the multiplication and division cards aside, emphasize correctness over speed, let a player call 'add' or 'take away' than give time to work it out.

2. Board games

There are many Math based board games. **Contig** is an example of a creative game of combining all four math operations to your advantage for grade 4 to adults and **Contig Junior game** is a good start using only addition and subtraction. The interaction between players telling about their ways of solving the question has the learning experience. Free downloads at www.mathwire.com: select *Topics, Games*.

3. Fractions

Fractions can be difficult and it is really beneficial to play games focusing on fractions: Make your own or store bought, **Pizza Fraction Games** are always entertaining (Scholastic). The **Free-Range Fractions Game** for two players focuses on the parts of a dozen using an egg carton with eggs and colored rings (Educational Insights). The **Decinney game** teaches the connection between fractions, decimals, and percents (Stern Structural Arithmetic). **Fractasmic** is a fun game: collect fractions cards for a full egg carton, water bottle, or inch.



4. Free Online Games

PBS Cyberchase has a number awesome games: <http://pbskids.org/cyberchase/math-games/>

Professor Garfield has activities for KG - 6th grade: http://www.professorgarfield.org/pgf_kbkids.html

Count On offers a variety from strategy games to math activity packs: <http://www.counton.org/games/>

BBC Starship for elementary uses a space theme www.bbc.co.uk/schools/starship/maths/index.shtml

BBC Bitesize Maths has a collection of funny games:

- KS1 Maths for KG and first years of elementary: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/>
- KS2 Maths for older elementary: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/secondlevel/mathematics/>
- KS3 Maths for middle and high school: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/games/>

5. Apps

Wuzzit Trouble, Motion Math, Dragon Box, and Mathbreakers are great games for iPad and iPad mini, iPhone and iPod touch, see <http://motionmathgames.com/> More Apps with the four basic operations for iPhone and Android are at <http://fun4thebrain.com/mobile.html>