

Mental Math Games!

STRAND: Number Sense

Players: 2 or more

Set 1:

Base this on your child's ability level. A parent might say, "Start with 5. Double it; Add 7; Subtract 9; Times 3; Divided by 6; Times 4; Let me know when you know the answer." Over time you can increase the speed and the complexity, sometimes including fractions or factorials. For younger kids, use only addition and subtraction.

Set 2:

First round: tell the kids, "I'll say a number, you double it." Start with easy numbers (4, 8, 13), work up to harder ones (45, 63, 79). Zero and 1/2 are good ones also. Second round: "I'll say a number, you double it and add one (or ten, or . . .)." Third round: "I'll say a number, you double it and subtract one (or however many). You can also reverse it: "Add one, then double it or subtract one, then double it."

Set 3:

Similar to Mental Math Set 1, above, except the parent gives the answer and kids make up a problem to fit it. For example: "The answer is 16 – give me two numbers." After several responses, "Give me three numbers," then, "three numbers and two different operations," then, "four numbers," then "four numbers with three operations" and so on

Tips:

Based on what your family likes – make up your own variations!

