

The Heart of Mathematical Thinking – Valentine's Day Math Activities ♥

Here is a listing of ideas to do at home to support math on Valentine's Day. By Deb Russell, About.com Guide

1. Have your child cut out hearts of various sizes and try to determine how to calculate the perimeter.
2. Take your heartbeats for a minute. Compare heartbeats. If a heartbeat is 72 beats per minute, how many times will it beat in 1 hour? 1 day?
3. When writing out those Valentine's, calculate numbers. For example, if each child in their class exchanged Valentine's, how many valentines would be exchanged? How could you find out? What if there were only 10 children in their class?
4. Ask mathematical questions...."If roses are on sale for \$29.95, how much is 1 rose? How much would it be to buy 5 dozen roses?"
5. Using cinnamon hearts or candy hearts, build graphs about how many cars go buy your home in 10 minutes or how many valentines did they write for the boys versus the girls.
6. Fill up a jar with candy hearts and let your child estimate how many hearts are in the jar. Once the estimation is done, have your child determine a quick way of finding out how many hearts is in the jar. (Grouping)
7. **Heart Fractions:** Give your child a small package of heart candies. Have them count the number of hearts in the package and use that number as the denominator. Then ask them to write fractions for the number of hearts of each color and/or each saying. Compare percentages among the packages
8. Play heart bingo. Use candy hearts on Bingo cards.
9. Make a heart on a piece of paper. Have your child fill the heart with 100 kisses or hugs. (ooooxx)
10. Play number games. For example; Valentine's Day is on the 14th. How many number sentences can you think of that will have an answer of 14? ($7 + 7$ or $24 - 10$ etc.)

Valentine Math Poem: Have you or your child read the following poem aloud, listen for numbers. Ask your child to add up the numbers given as you read the poem a second time. Is there any particular significance to this total sum?

A Be-9 Valentine

*I went **2** the store
4 a Valentine's card.
 I saw **1** you'll love -
 Sweet and **10**-der.
 A card that is **gr-8**
 On this **1**-derful date
 That **2**-gether
 And **4**-ever,
 We'll remember.*

by Jacqueline Schiff (answer = 32)



This Month's Family Activity

♥ Valentine Keepsake Ideas ♥

Valentine's Day is an occasion that the entire family can share. Words and gifts of love are exchanged on this day and we want to remember them for years to come. When we have kids, those memories become more precious to us. Here are some ideas to make keepsake mementos of this love day each year.

Press it in a book. When kids are too small to make mom a gift, dad may bring home a bouquet of flowers and let them give it to mom. Those flowers can be kept by pressing the petals between the pages of a book. Pressed flowers can be sealed between two pieces of glass to make bookends or a paperweight. A tag can be placed in the glass with the flowers that gives the year the gift was given and by whom.

That first card that comes home from school is the sweetest of all. It was made for you with their own little hands. If you already scrapbook or have thought about it, it is a good way to preserve the memories each Valentine's Day. Devote a different page in the scrapbook to the cards given to you by your child. Include pictures of them and you enjoying the day together. Add a paragraph or two about what made the day stick out in your mind.

During the early years in school, many kids bring home clay handprints from art class as a token of love for mom and dad. *Save these handprints as keepsakes for Valentine's Day.* Even when they get too old to make them in school, purchase your own kit and make handprints at home. The kids can decorate them as they wish and you can put the date on the back.

Memories are important. They are what we carry with us long after an event is over. Start this year putting your Valentine's Day memories into a keepsake you can enjoy for years and years to come. ♥♥

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Site Review

Resources available for Parents and Families:

Kids Off the Couch

Need ideas for getting kids to be more active? Parents will appreciate the ideas and tips they will find at Kids Off the Couch (KOTC). The site was designed by mothers who wanted to take advantage of their own children's "screen time" and to share their ideas with other parents.

<http://kidsoffthecouch.com/index.php>



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