

# Try-Me Activities

Investigations in Number, Data, and Space®

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## K-1

- Recognize, name, know the value, count coins
- Count things around the home past 10, identify numbers on signs and in an elevator, set the table for your family size
- Learn single-digit facts, starting with doubles (examples of doubles:  $1 + 1$ ,  $2 + 2$ ,  $3 + 3$ ,  $5 - 5$ ,  $4 - 4$ ,  $3 - 3$ )
- Name days of week, months of year, seasons
- Compare items by length, weight, mass
- Count and compare: cars vs. trucks; record and compare: sunny/cloudy days
- Name shapes (circle, square, rectangle) and find representations in the home and outside

## 2-3

- Make change, make 25 and 50 cents in multiple ways, manage an allowance
- Count by 2, 5, 10, count past 100, look for patterns, practice skip counting
- Know addition and subtraction facts to 20, begin to learn multiplication and division fact families ( $3 \times 4 = 12$ ,  $4 \times 3 = 12$ ,  $12 \div 3 = 4$ ,  $12 \div 4 = 3$ )

(continued on back)

- Know minutes/hour, hours/day; read an analog clock
- Use measurement tools: ruler, tape measure, scale, etc.
- Survey and graph family members' "favorites", describe the data, and ask "why" and "how" questions
- Name and describe differences of 2-D and 3-D objects in the home; explore area and volume of cereal boxes

## 4-5

- Help grocery shop, compare prices, budget allowance for saving/spending short/long term
- Practice skip counting – starting at 2, 3, 7, 9; count past 1000 counting by 25, 50, 250
- Know multiplication and division facts to 12, fluently and accurately
- Practice scheduling, time management; determine elapsed time
- Participate in cooking, building, measuring, arranging bedroom
- Discuss newspaper graphs or charts, discuss the probability of likely and unlikely events
- Draw up a proposal for new carpet and paint for your bedroom; determine cost

Information from  
[investigations.scottforesman.com](http://investigations.scottforesman.com)

Additional Websites:

[mathforum.org](http://mathforum.org)

[aplusmath.com](http://aplusmath.com)

[auntymath.com](http://auntymath.com)

[mathstories.com](http://mathstories.com)

## A Family Guide to



## Frequently Asked Questions about the Math Program used in Duval County Schools

### What is the Investigations program?

Investigations is a program that offers meaningful math problems, emphasizes depth in thinking, and provides children opportunities to communicate about mathematics while developing their ability to problem solve and think critically about math concepts.

### Why is Investigations being used to teach my child mathematics?

This program gives children different ways to express their thinking. After being given situations for problem solving, students invent and develop strategies for expressing mathematics, allowing ownership of understanding. Through teacher guidance in working with peers, students justify and analyze each other's methods and strategies. This program also shows children important relationships between mathematics concepts.

### How is Investigations different from traditional math approaches?

Through Investigations, children develop personal meaning of concepts and learn mathematical reasoning using factual knowledge. They are not taught to rely on set procedures, formulas and rules that may have no meaning to them. The same concepts are covered as those in traditional textbooks, only the approach is different. Students who construct math for themselves are not likely to forget how to do it. They will keep trying to make sense of problems.

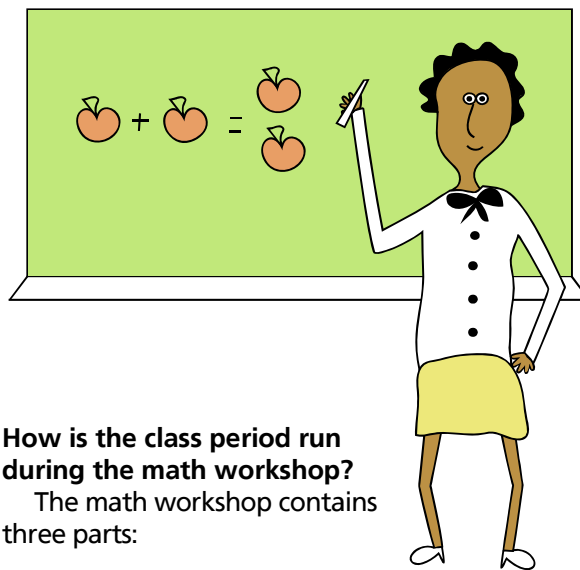


### How will Investigations affect my child?

Your child will learn to be a self-directed learner with the ability to approach unfamiliar problems and develop ways to solve them using what they know about numbers. Your child will also develop communication skills about mathematics; learning to use, represent and explain concepts. Instead of the teacher being the sole authority for answers, each child will learn to rely on logic and mathematical evidence as verification of understanding. This will help your child become a confident learner of mathematics!

### Why are there no student textbooks?

Textbooks do not come with this program. Instead of learning math through a book, children are actively engaged in mathematics through conversations with peers and working with manipulative materials. "Student Sheets", found in student activity books, contain problems and games which allow students to practice skills as well as deepen understanding of concepts learned in the units.



### How is the class period run during the math workshop?

The math workshop contains three parts:

- During the opening meeting, your child's teacher explains the goals for the math workshop and teaches a mini-lesson, introducing a new concept or skill. The teacher then poses a problem or series of problems for each child to solve based on the conversation during the mini-lesson.
- During the work period, your child works individually, with a peer, or with a group. They will solve the problem(s) presented in the mini-lesson, develop ideas and form problem-solving strategies. The teacher facilitates learning by circulating around the room, working/conferencing with students individually or in small groups.
- During the closing meeting, students discuss strategies used to solve the day's problem(s), share misunderstandings and correct them,

and make connections to other areas of math and the real world. They reflect on what was learned during the lesson. Following this, homework is usually assigned to reinforce and extend what was learned during the day.

### Are the children learning the basic skills?

Yes. With experience, each child will learn to remember basic skills by constructing sense of them. Although fluency is more important than memorization, occasional drill and review exercises occur during the mathematics workshop to create balance of learning.

### Why is there so much written work?

Standards-based education, as well as Investigations, requires the student to confidently communicate about mathematics. In order for a child to truly understand a concept, he/she must be able to use, represent, and explain their thinking about mathematics. Communicating about math gives children ownership of their understanding.



### Can I observe a mathematics lesson with my child's teacher?

Absolutely. Simply write a note or make a phone call to your child's math teacher to schedule a time convenient for both of you. Math is taught each day during a full one-hour workshop.

### How do absences affect my child?

When your child is absent, it is extremely difficult to make up work because mini lessons and conversations that take place during the math workshop are missed. Often, lessons connect to one another in Investigations. When a child is absent he/she does not see connections being made. As a result, a child who is absent may have a difficult time participating in class discussions. It is important to limit absences to a minimum so your child gains complete understanding of concepts being explored during class.