

# By the Numbers: Mathematical Connections in the Newspaper

## ACTIVITY #1

### Money Matters

Here's one concept that you can help your child understand by using the newspaper. Money can be a difficult concept for children to master. Mastery involves not only the recognition of currency values, but also skills such as addition and subtraction. And although money skills are taught in schools, learning to be "moneywise" is something that happens best at home in the context of the cost of living.

Perhaps you and your child can "shop" in the newspaper for things like furniture. You can each spend a hypothetical \$1,500. Compare the choices you make with those of your child. You also can compare the cost of new furniture to the cost of buying similar pieces that are advertised as "used" or "pre-owned" in the classified ads.

The newspaper is a terrific resource for helping your child practice some of the math skills he or she is learning in school. From sports scores to automotive ads, the newspaper is full of real numbers from real life. And that's the advantage of working with a newspaper – the numbers and skills that young people learn will be relevant to day-to-day experiences.

Newspaper  
Association  
of America



# By the Numbers: Mathematical Connections in the Newspaper

## ACTIVITY #2

### Getting a Life

If you want a fun activity that will enable you to teach your children some valuable math skills, try this one. The object of this activity is for your child to use the newspaper to “get a life.” He or she will search the newspaper looking for an entire life – a job, a place to live and a car. These all can be found in the classified section of the newspaper.

First, have your son or daughter skim the help-wanted ads to find a great job. Then, he or she should head to the real estate rental ads to identify a suitable place to live. Finally, it’s on to the automotive ads to choose a car to buy or lease. Be sure to remind your child to make sure that the job he or she selects will pay enough money to cover the other costs of “life.”

**T**he newspaper is a terrific resource for helping your child practice some of the math skills he or she is learning in school. From sports scores to automotive ads, the newspaper is full of real numbers from real life. And that’s the advantage of working with a newspaper – the numbers and skills that young people learn will be relevant to day-to-day experiences.

Newspaper  
Association  
of America



# By the Numbers: Mathematical Connections in the Newspaper

## ACTIVITY #3 TV Talk

If you think your child spends too much time watching television, this is the activity for you. Have your child read the TV listings and circle any shows he or she plans to watch today. He or she should add up the total amount of projected TV viewing time. Then, have your son or daughter compare that amount of time to time spent doing other things – being in school, reading for fun, exercising, etc.

**T**he newspaper is a terrific resource for helping your child practice some of the math skills he or she is learning in school. From sports scores to automotive ads, the newspaper is full of real numbers from real life. And that's the advantage of working with a newspaper – the numbers and skills that young people learn will be relevant to day-to-day experiences.

Newspaper  
Association  
of America



# By the Numbers: Mathematical Connections in the Newspaper

## ACTIVITY #4

### Reality Check

**As your teenager gets closer to leaving the nest, this activity becomes even more relevant.**

Ask him or her to guess the amount of money it takes to feed a family of four for one week. Then have him or her skim the ads in the food section and tally up the cost of things a family would need to eat for a week. Was the estimate close to reality? Are there coupons that could help cut costs? How much will the family save if the coupons are used?

**T**he newspaper is a terrific resource for helping your child practice some of the math skills he or she is learning in school. From sports scores to automotive ads, the newspaper is full of real numbers from real life. And that's the advantage of working with a newspaper – the numbers and skills that young people learn will be relevant to day-to-day experiences.

**Newspaper  
Association  
of America**



# By the Numbers: Mathematical Connections in the Newspaper

ACTIVITY #5

## Job Search

Have your son or daughter find some listings in the help-wanted section of the classified ads that include annual salary. Based on a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, have him or her compute the hourly wage. Which jobs are most lucrative on an hourly basis? What is the difference between the jobs that require a college education and those that can be done with only a high school diploma?

**T**he newspaper is a terrific resource for helping your child practice some of the math skills he or she is learning in school. From sports scores to automotive ads, the newspaper is full of real numbers from real life. And that's the advantage of working with a newspaper – the numbers and skills that young people learn will be relevant to day-to-day experiences.

Newspaper  
Association  
of America

