



SOUTHMORELAND PRIMARY CENTER



November 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Our students attended two field trips in October. The first graders attended the Pittsburgh Zoo on October 3rd and our Kindergarteners attended Triple B Farms on October 10th. Our St. Vincent Program opened the month on October 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Bee Kind visited our K classrooms on the 6th and 20th and our grade 1 classrooms on the 8th and 15th. Our Halloween Parade and Party will be held on October 31st.

Information has been sent home to you already, but should you have any questions, please contact us.

November is shaping up to be a great month as well. Our Veterans' Day program will be held on November 6th. Our parent teacher conferences are on November 10th —please note: there is no school for students on that day. There is no school on November 11th.

On November 19th, WTAE Pittsburgh's Action

Weather 4 and Carnegie Science Center will visit SPC. We will have a two hour early dismissal for our Thanksgiving break on November 26th. The break runs from November 27th through December 2nd. Students return to school on December 3rd.

Please also check our policy for school cancellations and delays due to inclement weather on page 9-10 of the handbook.

As the weather changes, please make sure that students are dressed warmly for the bus stop and for recess when it is possible. We are excited to share the upcoming holiday season with our students and with you. We continue to pursue our mission of High Quality learning for All at SPC, and we thank you for your support of our efforts.

Respectfully,

Mr. Daniel A. Clara
SPC Principal



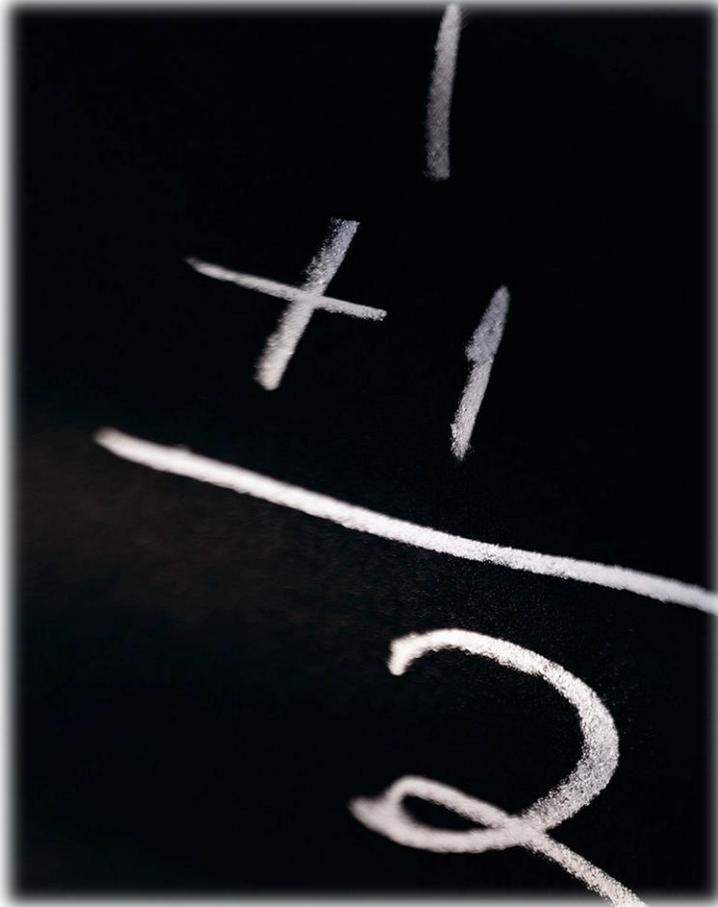


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Building Math Skills



Kindergarten to Grade 1 Tips for Parents

- Cut out cardboard squares, triangles, and circles (five of each, at least two to three inches in size). Make a game of putting the shapes that are the same together. This is an exercise in classification. Does your child recognize the difference in the shapes? Does he or she know what the shapes are called? If not, ask again at a later time.
- Put your cardboard shapes into a pattern: for example, line up a circle, square, triangle, circle, square, and triangle. Ask your child to put the other pieces together in the same pattern. This is another classification activity.
- Put out five buttons and ask your child, "How many buttons are there?" Take two away and ask, "How many are there now?" You could add to this as a way of determining how your child's understanding of numbers is developing.
- Another way of seeing how well your child understands numbers is to play board games that call for markers to be moved forward and backward so many spaces -- for

example, "Now you can move four spaces forward."

- Ask your child to help you measure something in the house -- a rectangular table, a room, a bookshelf. The process will demonstrate your child's beginning measurement skills.
- With counters (buttons, game pieces, or the like) at hand, ask what two plus two equals, what two minus two equals, what two minus one equals, whether five is greater than four or less than four.
- Telling time is an important skill. Occasionally ask your child, "Can you see what time it is?" (Do not expect a precise reading unless from a digital clock.)
- While cooking or baking, ask your child to put in some of what the recipe calls for: three tablespoons of sugar, two cups of flour, and the like. This is a good way to see your child put math to use.
- There are many opportunities for counting during everyday activities. While cooking you could ask, "Can you count out six potatoes?" Or ask, "Can you put ten cookies on the plate for dessert?"
- Read the house numbers as you go around the block.

Reprinted from *101 Educational Conversations with Your Kindergartner -- 1st Grader* by Vito Perrone