

Number Play

Manipulating numbers can lead to some fun mathematical tricks. Logic puzzles get children thinking in creative ways. Here are a few to try with your child. You may want to have a calculator handy while you try them. Most students have never used a calculator in school so this will be an opportunity for you to share this important life skill. (To find more of these puzzles, google *elementary math riddles and tricks*.)

Calendar Magic

Pull out a calendar and ask your child to put a square around a 3x3 box, enclosing 9 numbers. Tell them you can find the sum of the 9 numbers faster than they can add it up on a calculator. All you have to do is multiply the center number by 9 - you'll get the right answer every time!

Handshakes

7 people meet at a party. If each person shakes hands with every other person, once, how many handshakes will there be? ($21 - 6 + 5 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 1$)

Your Age By Chocolate Math

(Note: This little "trick" will only work during the year 2022.)

1. First of all, pick the number of times a week that you would like to have chocolate. (You will have easier calculations if this is less than 10.)
2. Multiply this number by 2.
3. Add 5.
4. Multiply it by 50.
5. If you have already had your birthday this year, add 1772. If you haven't, add 1771.
6. Now subtract the four-digit year that you were born.
7. You should now see the number you picked in the beginning (i.e., how many times you want to have chocolate each week), followed by... your age! (As a two-digit number.)

Pick a Number

1. Pick any number (We'll use 73)
2. Add 3 ($73+3=76$)
3. Double the result ($76\times 2=152$)
4. Subtract four ($152-4=148$)
5. Divide that number in half (74)
6. Subtract your original number ($74-73=1$)
7. The answer is always 1.