

Real Life Math Prompts for Homeschool Days

Use these ideas to bring math into your everyday life—no worksheets required! Pick one each week, or keep this list handy and try a few each month.

In the Kitchen:

- Measure ingredients and double a recipe.
- Cut a pizza or cake into equal parts and talk about fractions.
- Compare the prices of name brand vs. store brand items by the ounce.
- Calculate how many servings you'll get from a recipe and how to adjust it for more or fewer people.
- Estimate how long it will take for food to cook, and set timers accordingly.

In the Grocery Store:

- Estimate the total cost of your cart before checkout.
- Compare price per unit between different sizes of the same product.
- Calculate how much 10% off would be on a favorite item.
- Round prices up or down to the nearest dollar for mental math practice.
- Count items by category: How many fruits? How many dairy items?

Around the House:

- Measure a room's length and width and figure out how much flooring or paint you'd need.
- Sort laundry and count how many socks, shirts, or towels are in a load.
- Calculate the total for an electric bill if each hour costs a certain amount.
- Check the calendar and count how many days until a birthday or holiday.
- Make a paper chore chart with tally marks to track jobs done during the week.

In the Car:

- Track gas prices and estimate how much it will cost to fill the tank.
- Figure out how many miles per gallon your vehicle is getting.
- Use a map to calculate how far you are from your destination.

- Talk about speed: If you're going 60 miles per hour, how far will you travel in 2 hours?
- Add up the number of red lights you hit and subtract it from your "perfect trip."

With Money:

- Count coins and bills and practice making change.
- Set a budget for a family outing and stick to it.
- Help your child figure out how many weeks they'll need to save allowance for a desired item.
- Create a pretend business (lemonade stand or bake sale) and work out profit/loss.
- Discuss taxes and tips when paying for food or services.