

# Math+Science Connection

Beginning Edition

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

May 2016

Pine Street Elementary School



## TOOLS & TIDBITS

### "Reading" traffic signs

What's that octagon?



Why, it's a stop sign! Have your youngster notice the shapes of traffic signs—and recognize what they represent. She could draw her own guide to traffic signs,

labeling the shapes and what they mean. *Examples:* ▲ triangle = yield, ● circle = railroad crossing, and ⬠ pentagon = school zone.

### Turn cream into butter

For a tasty activity, help your child pour heavy cream into a jar and screw the lid on tightly. Tell him to shake the jar (or take turns shaking) until the cream turns into butter. You can explain that as drops of fat and protein collide, they stick together to form a solid. *Tip:* Let him time how long it takes.

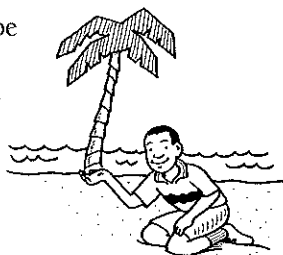
### Book picks

See how twins Matt and Bib put their measurement skills to work in a French kitchen with *Pastry School in Paris: An Adventure in Capacity* (Cindy Neuschwander). Includes activities to do at home.

What's the Matter in Mr. Whiskers' Room? That's the question—and the answer involves lots of fun experiments with matter! A book by Michael Elsohn Ross.

## Just for fun

**Q:** What type of tree can you hold in your hand?



**A:** A palm tree.

## Math is everywhere

Wherever you go this summer, math can go along for the ride. Encourage your child to enjoy math everywhere with these ideas.

### Count around

Ask him to name objects or animals to count during each outing, such as blue cars, purple flowers, or squirrels. He could record his findings in a special "counting notebook." Then, at the end of each week, have him analyze his results. ("I counted 12 purple flowers and 8 yellow flowers. I saw more purple flowers than yellow flowers.")

### Make graphs

Heading to the playground? Let your youngster think of something to graph—perhaps the number of boys and girls or people with brown, blond, or red hair. He can make tally marks for each person and turn his data into a bar graph. *Idea:* Suggest that he use sidewalk chalk and rocks to create a 3-D graph. If he has 7 rocks



in the boy column and 4 rocks in the girl column, he'll see at a glance that there were more boys.

### Hold scavenger hunts

Together, make a list of "math problems" to collect on a walk (4 + 3 twigs, 12 - 5 pebbles, 4 + 0 acorns). Give your youngster a pillowcase for gathering the items. When he has found them all, he can dump out the bag and use the objects to create the problems. He might say them aloud ("4 twigs + 3 twigs = 7 twigs"). Or he could make up a silly story problem for each one. ("The pebble-eating giant had 12 pebbles. He ate 5 for breakfast. How many did he have left for lunch?")

## The eyes have it

How are eyes different and the same? Sit opposite your youngster, and use colored pencils to sketch each other's eyes on paper. If you have a pet, let your child draw its eyes, too. Then together, look closely at various animals' eyes in library books or online.

What does she notice? She might say the eyes are different colors and shapes, but that humans and animals all use their eyes to see. Also, help her discover interesting details about eyes. For instance, beavers' eyelids are clear so they can see underwater, and giraffes have several rows of eyelashes to keep dust out.

