

Bringing Mathematics Home 5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

Prime Number Activities

With younger children:

The Mystery of Numbers:

The purpose of this activity is to introduce young children to the idea of prime numbers without introducing the definition or vocabulary.

- Use the 1-50 chart and do an investigation with your child.
- Tell them that there are some special numbers that feel left out because people do not use them when they are counting by 2s, 3s, etc.
- Tell them that you are going to find these mystery numbers together.
- Ask your child to circle the 2, and then count by 2s. As your child counts by 2s, cross out those numbers.
- Ask your child to circle the 3. When counting wheels on a tricycle, people count by 3 because there are 3 on each trike. Have your child count by 3s. As your child counts by 3s, cross out those numbers.
- Ask your child to circle the 5. When counting fingers, people count by 5 because there are 5 on each hand. Have your child count by 5s. As your child counts by 5s, cross out those numbers.
- Tell them that when people watch football, they count the touchdowns, which are worth 7 points each. Circle the 7 and then count touchdowns together, crossing off those numbers. Notice the numbers that are left. They are the mystery numbers.

With older children:

Do the **Sieve of Eratosthenes** with your child.

Try some of the factor trees.

Calculator activity:

Pick a three-digit number; multiply it by 7 then by 11 then by 13. Do this several times. What is the pattern in your answer? I wonder why this happens.