

These sites have been reviewed with the following criteria in mind: Alignment to current state math standards, contain a teaching component, student interest and engagement and ease of access.

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**Calculation Nation** (Grade 3+), recommended by NCTM (National Council for Teachers of Mathematics). **Free registration** allows players to challenge themselves or challenge others.

Playing the games reinforce conceptual understanding of mathematics. If a mistake is made, there is a component that explains why and offers visual support for understanding.

I registered and challenged myself (playing against the computer). The first round of each I was mainly focused on learning how to play the games. Once I knew how to play, I was impressed with the games. I think children will find them very entertaining and may

not even notice how embedded they are in learning and reinforcing mathematics! I am not comfortable playing 'others' so I strictly played 'the computer.' I can see many students wanting to beat the computer and focusing on learning the strategies to improve their scores.

<http://calculationnation.nctm.org/Games/ForEducators.aspx>



Additional games, activities, lessons are available free from NCTM on the Illuminations site.

<p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>Explore our library of 105 online activities that help to make math come alive in the classroom or at home</p>	<p><b>Highlighted Activity</b></p> <p><b>Turtle Pond</b> Estimating Length and Angle Measures</p> <p>Guide a turtle to his pond using computer commands. Students will be engaged by the activity and learn to better estimate length and angle measures.</p> <p>Want more geometry resources? Check out the variety of materials at <a href="#">Vanzen Thinkfinity</a>.</p>	<p><b>calculation nation</b></p> <p><b>Introducing Ker-Splash</b></p> <p>Can't wait for summer? Take your students to the beach without leaving the classroom. Ker-Splash, the newest addition to Calculation Nation, will ease your students into algebra and take you away from the winter blues.</p>	<p><b>Warming Up with Illuminations</b></p> <p>Wan Chow of Bishop Strachan School in Toronto finds the perfect warm-up in <a href="#">Bright Ideas</a>.</p> <p>Sign up now to receive <a href="#">Bright Ideas</a>, our monthly e-newsletter.</p>
<p><b>Lessons</b></p> <p>View our collection of 550 lessons for preK-12 math educators</p>	<p><b>Highlighted Lesson</b></p> <p><b>Joking with Proofs</b> Learning Proofs by Creating Jokes</p> <p>Laugh your way through proofs. In this lesson, students modify a cliché or common phrase to use as a punch line to a humorous story, making the connection between supporting statements and conclusions in paragraph-style proofs.</p>	<p><b>Illuminations Summer Institute</b></p> <p>Applications are currently being accepted for the 2010 Illuminations Summer Institute. This year, applications will be accepted from teachers preK-6.</p> <p>Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn, grow, and contribute. The deadline is <b>May 6!</b></p>	<p><b>Dynamic Paper Tool</b></p> <p>Create customized activity sheets for your classroom! Nets of 3-D shapes, tessellations, coordinate graphs, and more — all based on your input.</p> <p><b>Download Our Efiles</b></p> <p>You know about Illuminations, but do your friends and colleagues? Download, print, and distribute our files. Share the wealth of resources.</p>

**MathWhizz** (K-8) is a web-based subscription site. (\$19.99/month for families – or contact your school to inquire about a \$50/year subscription.) MW has a strong teaching component built in to animations and after a placement test (which kids may not even recognize as a ‘test’ because of the way animations are built into the assessment). MW then selects topics based on this assessment.

Points are ‘earned’ and can be ‘spent’ on pets, games, toys that they bring into their “bedroom” (study room) that is the home screen for MW. They must keep playing to earn points if they want to be able to feed their pets and water their plants (or they disappear!).

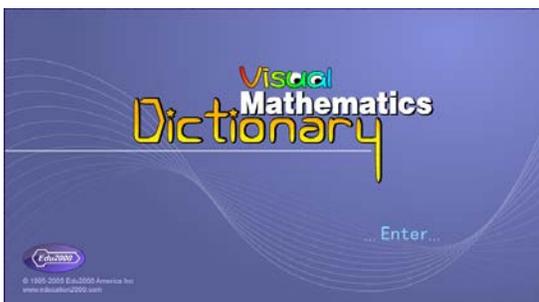
Content ranges from kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. MathWhizz is used in grades K-8 in various schools in the Salem-Keizer district and is praised by students, parents and teachers. Schools that have 60 or more licenses have access to the Teacher Resource (access to all animations in MW) that allows them to select and use specific animations to support regular math instruction in the classroom.

<http://www.whizz.us/>



**A Maths Dictionary for Kids** For reference, this is a wonderful, Interactive math dictionary. This comes recommended by teachers and parents. Children find it fun to just explore various vocabulary once they are here. For parents who are curious or need a little ‘refresher’ information, this may be just the resource. Ctrl/Click on picture or link below:

<http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jeather/maths/dictionary.html>



**Visual Mathematics Dictionary** This may appeal to the older student, but it is another solid reference resource. It is organized by grade band, then alphabetically. Mouse over the diagrams and you will ‘see’ deeper explanations of concepts and terms. Control/Click on picture or the link below.

<http://www.washoe.k12.nv.us/ecollab/washoemath/dictionary/vmd/system/grd-35-index.htm>

**FIGURE THIS!** Another NCTM recommended resource! Many fun, engaging mathematical challenges targeted to families. Check out the Family corner, or navigate to the index of activities to find a fun challenge. They will keep children thinking....and parents, too.



## Family Corner



### Families & School

Welcome to the **Figure This!** Family Corner. Family members—as children's first teachers—are crucial to student success. And the more adults become engaged in their children's education, the greater the chances that children will succeed.

**ESPAÑOL**  
**ENGLISH**  
**HELP**

### Families & Math

### Families & Homework

### Families & Support

### Math & Literature

### Other Resources

The resources listed here may help as you work with your child. Please click on the topics to the left that are of interest to you. These resources are designed to be downloaded for printing and can be downloaded for printing by clicking [here](#) or on the PDF file on each page, or you can click on the right to download all five brochures at once. (All five brochures together are approximately 10 minutes to download on a dial-up modem.)

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[Families & School](#) · [Families & Math](#) · [Families & Homework](#) · [Math & Literature](#) · [Math & Literature](#) · [Other Resources](#)



Content is targeted to middle schoolers, but could provide appropriate challenges for upper elementary students who are showing mastery of grade level content and are ready for more. <http://www.figurethis.org/index.html>

**Figure This!**  
Math Challenges for Families!

# Take a Challenge!

[Purchase the CD! click here](#)

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