

# Everyday Mathematics – Kindergarten

## Introduction

*Everyday Mathematics* is a program developed by the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project over the past twenty years. In developing this program, the authors and researchers studied national and international programs, and conducted extensive field-testing. They found that most children begin school with a broad intuitive background in mathematics often ignored by other programs. As a result of these studies, *Everyday Mathematics*, now in its Third Edition, adapted to match California Standards, was developed based on the following principles:

- ✎ Teachers and other adults help students to work from their own experience to develop an understanding of mathematics and acquire knowledge and skills.
- ✎ The task of the curriculum is to make the gradual transitions from early intuition and concrete operations to abstractions and skills with symbols.
- ✎ Practical routines and games help build quick arithmetic skills.

### IN *EVERYDAY MATHEMATICS* YOU CAN EXPECT TO SEE...

- A problem solving approach based on everyday situations;
- Emphasis on conceptual understanding while building a mastery of basic skills;
- Key mathematical ideas repeated over time in slightly different ways;
- Carefully planned, sequential and balanced instruction;
- Learning through age-appropriate, playful activities;
- A broad range of mathematics topics exploring the full mathematics spectrum, not just basic arithmetic;
- Ongoing, continuous basic skills practice; and
- Opportunities to “do math” at home.



## KEY COMPONENTS IN KINDERGARTEN:

- **Home Links**, which are sent home periodically, are designed to promote the home-school connection. They include Family Notes that describe what your child is learning so you can help. They also suggest fun and easy math activities you can do at home to reinforce classroom lessons and experiences.
- **Family Letters** help explain the unit's topics and terms. Some concepts are introduced differently than the way we learned them. Referring to the family letter will help you reinforce how concepts are being taught in the classroom.
- **Mathematics at Home Booklets** include a variety of suggested activities intended to promote follow-up and enrichment activities at home. Four of these booklets will be sent home during the Kindergarten school year.
- **Daily Routines** include our Calendar, Daily Schedule, Job Charts, Number Line, Attendance, Temperature and Weather Records. These activities are used to apply mathematics to the children's daily lives.
- **Games** are used in the *Everyday Mathematics* program to reinforce the learning of basic skills. Frequent practice is necessary to attain mastery of a skill. However, drill can become tedious and as children lose interest it loses its effectiveness. Practice through games builds fact and operations skills and at the same time reinforces other skills. Many games allow variations so players may progress from easy to more challenging versions.
- **Online Resources:** Each student will receive a log in and password for [www.everydaymathonline.com](http://www.everydaymathonline.com), where parents can access resources and information including online games.
- **District Math Website:** Please see <http://pausd.org/parents/curriculum/elementary/Math/index.shtml> for additional information.



## HOW CAN I BE SURE THIS PROGRAM WILL WORK FOR MY CHILD?

The *Everyday Mathematics* program is based upon a spiral model of instruction. This means that rather than spend the first month on one concept, the key concepts are integrated throughout the year. Students forget less material because it is constantly reinforced.

*Everyday Mathematics* provides ongoing and periodic assessment opportunities. Ongoing assessment includes observation of students as they are involved in regular classroom activities. These can also include mini-interviews. The aim is to gain insight into children's thinking and strategies, as well as their development in specific skills. Periodic assessments include special assessment events that occur at regular intervals during the school year. For Kindergarten, this includes assessments at the beginning, middle, and end of the year. Teachers share progress and observations with parents during conferences, and in district progress reports.