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News from Ms. Hagemann (November 2015)

It's More than Just a Game

Students who are very skilled at math are good at doing math in their head. Some people call this "mental math," a phrase that means solving problems by thinking them through. If students can learn to solve tough addition and multiplication problems in their heads without doing them on paper, they're on their way to becoming great math scholars!

One way to get stronger in mental math is by use math-based games to reinforce basic concepts and encourage mathematical thinking. In our Singapore Math curriculum, students play a variety of games to learn how to do mental math while having a little bit of fun.



Students in Ms. Hageman's class love mental math games! These pictures show them playing a dice game that requires quick addition and subtraction skills. In this game, students are given a sheet with numbers on it that can be made by adding or subtracting the numbers on a pair of dice. For example, if a student rolls a 6 and a 2, they can use mental math to add the numbers to make 8 or subtract them to make 4. After choosing which number they want, they mark off that number on their chart. Whichever team fills up their chart first wins!