



# Family Activities

Title: **Math Curse**

Author: **Jon Scieszka**

Illustrator: **Lane Smith**

“Math Curse” is a zany and hilarious look at how almost everything in our lives is math related. LeVar tracks down, scouts out, and sneaks up on math-in-action, and he finds out firsthand that a factory — and life — can’t run without it.

Here are several activities you and your child can do together after watching this episode.

## **What’s Different?**

Your young child will enjoy this number recognition game. You will need a deck of cards. Arrange four cards, three of the same number and one that doesn’t belong. Have your child pick out the one that doesn’t belong. After playing a while, have your child arrange the cards for you.

## **Add Them Up!**

This is an addition game played with a deck of cards. Two players divide a deck of cards and place the cards face down. Each child turns over the top card. The first player to correctly add up the two numbers, takes the cards. Your children will have to assign values to Ace (1), Jack (11), Queen (12) and King (13). Whenever a Joker is turned over, the player who had the card automatically takes both cards.

## **Counting**

Next time you ride in the car, count how many cars of a certain color pass along the highway until you get to your destination. Count how many signs there are in one block. Count the number of streetlights you pass that are green, and so on.

## **Egg Carton Numbers**

Try this counting activity with your youngest mathematicians. You will need:

- an egg carton
- 78 dried beans or other small objects
- marker

Directions:

1. Have your child help you label the sections of an egg carton by writing the numbers 1 through 12.



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2. Have your child count out 78 beans (or other small objects). Then have your child count out the corresponding number for each of the sections of the carton. There should be one bean in the section marked “1” and two beans in the section marked “2” and so on.
3. If your child has counted accurately, exactly 78 beans will be needed.

## Sizing Things Up

Play a riddle game with your child by asking them to find something that is...

- larger than a pea but smaller than an apple
- larger than a pencil but smaller than a telephone pole
- longer than a comb but shorter than your bed
- taller than a stool but shorter than a door
- and so on...

## Visit Your Community Library

Here are some books you can check out on your next trip to the library:

*Marvelous Math: A Book of Poems* by Lee Bennett Hopkins

*Twelve Snails to One Lizard* by Susan Hightower

*Pigs on a Blanket: Fun with Math and Time* by Amy Axelrod