**Subtraction “War”**

Play this fun card game with your child and before long those challenging subtraction math facts will be part of her mathematical skill set. Besides strengthening subtraction skills, this game also provides practice in comparing numbers. Your teacher will thank you: in school, second graders are spending lots of time going up and down the number line, counting objects, and developing deep understanding of these all-important number concepts.

What You Need:

• Deck of cards

• Kitchen timer

What You Do:

1. Shuffle the deck of cards and deal them face down, giving each player an equal number of cards until the deck runs out. Each player keeps his cards in a stack. Assign picture cards, such as jacks, queens, and kings, a value of 10. Give aces a value of 1.

2. Demonstrate to your child how to play the game: Each player turns two cards face up, reads the number sentence and supplies the answer. For example, if your child draws a 5 and a 4, he says 5 - 4 = 1. If you draw a 7 and an 2, then your number sentence is 7-2 = 5. Because your result is larger, you win the four cards and you put them at the bottom of your pile.

3. If each of you has a number sentence with the same answer, then it's war! At this point, you'll reverse the math "operation" and do an addition problem. Each player puts four cards face down and turns up two of them. The player with the sum wins all eight cards.

4. Set up the timer and play the game for 10 to 15 minutes. When the bell goes off, each player counts his cards. The player with the most cards wins. If one player runs out of cards before time is up, then the other player wins. Get your game on!

Subtraction Math War is an marvelous, high-speed way to build up math skills while spending a richly enjoyable time with your child.

**Quick Stop: An Addition (or Multiplication) Card Game**

Are you tired of worksheets and flashcards? This card game is a fun way to practice addition. Compete for the highest score as you flip over cards. Add up your cards until you reach 100 points. The first one there wins! Ready for a challenge? Check out the variations at the bottom of the page!

***Skills:***

 Addition

 Subtraction (see variations)

***What You Need:***

 Deck of cards

 Pencil and paper for every player (to add up scores)

***What You Do:***

1. Place a well shuffled deck of cards, face down, in the center of the playing area.

2. Each player begins by drawing one card and placing it face up in front of themselves. Players write the value of this card down at the top of their papers. (Aces are worth 1, and face cards are all 10.)

3. When all players are ready, everyone draws a second card. They add the value of these cards to their totals.

4. Keep playing until one player reaches 100.

***Variations:***

 Play until the deck runs out. The player closest to 100, without going over, wins.

 Add jokers into the deck. If a player draws a joker, their score drops back to zero.

 Start with 100 points, and subtract your way to the finish.

 Need a challenge? Use multiplication to reach 1000. (This is a good adaptation for a fourth grader!)

**Learn Multiplication and Addition Math Facts With Going to Boston**

Also known as Yankee Grab and Newmarket, Going to Boston is a well known and easy to play math game that can help kids learn addition and multiplication skills. It can be modified to provide easier or more challenging versions, based on the skill level and age of the players.

***Skills Learned***

• Less than and greater than

• Addition

• Multiplication Materials Needed:

• 3 dice

• Paper and pen for scoring

***How to Play Going to Boston***

Have each player roll one die. The player with the highest number goes first.

Each player in turn rolls all three of the dice. After the first throw, remove the die with the highest number and put it aside. Roll the two remaining dice and again put the highest number aside. Roll the last die and add up the numbers on all three dice to get the player’s score for that round. Record the score on a pad of paper.

Continue taking turns moving clockwise around the table until all players have had a turn. The highest score for the round wins. Play a number of rounds and either add up a combined score at the end or tally winning rounds to come up with a game champion.

***Variations of Going to Boston***

• Play with two dice for younger children to learn addition skills.

• Keep the lowest numbered die rather than highest for a slightly easier game that teaches addition skills.

• Increase the number of dice in the game to 4+ to learn more complicated addition skills.

• Learn multiplication by taking the sum of the first two dice and multiplying it by the third