



**Parent Pointer**  
 This game helps children to develop their knowledge of numbers and to think algebraically.

**Total It**

**Grades 3-5**

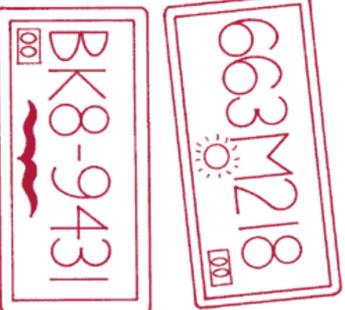
**Parent Pointer**  
 The problem-solving and computational skills your child uses in this activity are very important to mental math skills, and they also help your child to be creative with numbers.

**What you'll need**

License plates, paper, pencil, and calculator

**What to do**

- As you are traveling in your car, or on a bus, each person takes turns calling out a license plate number.
- All players try to add the numbers in their heads. Talk about what strategies were used in the mental math addition. Were the numbers added by 10's like 2+8? Were doubles like 6+6 added?
- Try different problems using the numbers in a license plate. For example, if you use the plate number 663M218, ask "Using the numbers on the plate, can you make 5?"
  - 5 using two numbers? "Yes, 3+2 = 5"
  - 5 using three numbers? "Yes, (3+2) x 1 = 5"
  - 5 using four numbers? "Yes, (6+3+1) + 2 = 5"
  - 5 using five numbers? "Yes, (6+6+3) - (8+2) = 5"
  - 5 using six numbers? "Yes, (6+6) + (3x1) - (8+2) = 5"



Try using a calculator to play these games. See if you can solve these problems faster using the calculator.

**How Long? How Far?**

**Grades 1-3**

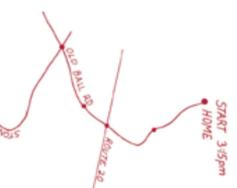
**What you'll need**

Information about how far you're traveling and how long it will take

**What to do**

Many times when you are on the go, you are headed somewhere that requires you to be there by a certain time.

- Ask your children how far they think you have traveled and how much more you have to travel.



- Talk about how long it takes to get to your destination. If it is 3:15 now, and it takes 45 minutes to get there, ask if you will make it for a 4:15 appointment? How much extra time will there be? Will we be late?



**Parent Pointer**  
 This car, bus, or train traveling exercise provides many opportunities for children to use mental math and estimation to calculate time and distance problems.

**Ease on Down the Road**

**Grades 2-5**

**What to do**

- A gallon of gas costs \$1.24 a gallon. What does it cost for 5 gallons? 10 gallons? 15 gallons? 20 gallons? What is an easy way to figure this out? How can you estimate the cost by rounding the cost per gallon?
- The speed limit is 55 miles per hour. How far will you go in 1 hour? Two hours? Three hours? How long will it take to go 500 miles?  
*Use a calculator to check your answers.*



**Parent Pointer**  
 An important algebra concept is finding relationships between two quantities such as miles per hour or cost per gallon.

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