

Family Math Game Night

Fitzmorris Elementary School

Arvada, CO



The struggle with ‘new math’ has often been a topic of frustration with families at Fitzmorris Elementary School. Family Math Game Night is one way that staff continue to support families with strategies to better answer their ‘new math’ questions and build their capacity to support every student. The main goal of the game night is to look at what families need, and to show them what math learning looks like in classrooms.

Fitzmorris’ community outreach team planned the event. The team consists of class teachers, a community member, and the family engagement liaison. Members sought support from community businesses to donate food and prizes for drawings held that evening. Teachers shared ideas for the take-home games and flyer development.

Family Math Game Night started with a casual get-to-know-you dinner. Throughout the evening, family math night activities encouraged students, parents, and teachers to interact with math learning. Most of the activities were designed to engage caregivers in their child’s learning. Students then took the lead and were excited when it came to sharing info about the games with their family members.

Fitzmorris’ principal shared instructional math information to the whole group. Through this “New Math Number Talk”, families learned the options students encounter during math class. Families were encouraged to keep this information in mind when helping their children at home. Teachers were available to review math game information. All families received games to play at home with their children.

The community outreach team received feedback from families through their response to questions posted by the front exit. Families were asked to give feedback from the evening and provide any suggestions for improvement for future events. Their feedback will help the team cultivate and improve future events.

Fitzmorris’ Family Engagement Liaisons states: “When planning a math game night event it is important to look at the needs of your students. This helps planning to stay focused on the ‘Why’ of the event. Putting together a team to plan and share in ideas is crucial. The support of your principal and teachers, looking at feedback from students and caregivers helps to keep the end goal in mind. Be sure to reach out to community businesses to see if they can support your event in any way. Getting feedback from families will help with planning future events.”