

Mathematical Baseball

Introduction: Everyone can relate to baseball in some way. Students often play t-ball or participate in Little League events. This activity blends baseball with mathematics, giving students and teachers time to enjoy participating in one of America’s favorite pastimes.

Grade Level and Subject: 2nd Grade Math and P.E.

TEKS: Math – 3A, 5D
P.E. – 1B, 3B, 7A, 7B

Materials: Bases, or anything that can be used as bases

Resource: *The Ultimate Playground & Recess Game Book* by Guy Bailey. ISBN: 0-9669727-2-4

Activity: This activity begins with the teacher placing bases on a playing field to make the baseball “diamond.” The class should be divided into two equal teams, with one team taking “fielding” positions (pitcher, catcher, etc.) and the other team lining up to “bat.”

The first batter goes to the base designated as home plate. The student who has been designated as the pitcher calls out an addition or subtraction problem. An example would be, “Five plus seven equals what?” If the batter answers correctly, he or she runs to first base. However, if the catcher answers the question correctly before the batter does, the batter is out.

The second batter comes up to home plate, and play resumes. If the second batter answers the question correctly, he or she runs to first base. If a player is already on first base (having answered a previous question correctly), he or she advances to second base.

As a twist to the regular game of baseball, the pitcher in this game can ask a baserunner to answer another problem. If the fielder at that base (first, second, or third baseman) answers the mathematical question correctly before the baserunner, the baserunner is called out. However, if the baserunner does answer the question correctly, he or she runs to the next base.

The teams will change sides after the batting team gets three outs, or when all members of the batting team have had a turn at bat. The team that scores the most points after a certain time limit (which the teacher decides) wins the contest.

Evaluation: The teacher should monitor the questions being called by the pitcher, the answers given, and the number of outs each batting team has. If a child is struggling with the answers to the questions, the teacher might want to give some individualized instruction to that student.



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