



## **MATHEMATICS : Helping your child during the summer.**

It is important for students to review math concepts and processes during the summer.

### **WHY** should I have my child do Summer Math?

- Most students lose about two months of grade level equivalency in mathematical computation skills over the summer months. (Cooper, 1996).
- Intentional practice of math skills will help students reach mastery of required material and increase their ability to use facts and operations easily and accurately (fluency).
- It will help to reinforce and build upon prior knowledge.
- Time spent working on mastery, reinforcement, and enrichment will benefit all students.
- It is important for students to have fun with mathematical concepts and explore how they use math daily.

### **HOW** do I help my child?

- Set up experiences that will enable your child to use mathematical thinking and problem solving
- Use everyday experiences such as going to the grocery store, counting money, and comparing prices

### **Websites to Explore**

*Funbrain* – Visit the math arcade and test your skills at a variety of math tasks. ([www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com))

*Set Game Daily Puzzle* – A new puzzle each day based on the game, SET. ([www.setgame.com](http://www.setgame.com))

*A Plus Math* – games, printables and more ([www.aplusmath.com](http://www.aplusmath.com))

*Multiplication Games* ([www.multiplication.com](http://www.multiplication.com)) (<http://www.mathplayground.com>)

*Bedtime Math* – A daily math problem with 3 different difficulty levels ([www.bedtimemath.com](http://www.bedtimemath.com))

*Calculation Nation* - Fun Games from the National Council of Teacher's of Mathematics ([www.calculationnation.nctm.org](http://www.calculationnation.nctm.org))

*Math Mysteries* – Solve a variety of math related mysteries (<http://teacher.scholastic.com/maven/>)

### **Place Value**

A concrete-pictorial-abstract approach is used throughout Math in Focus. Students use place value blocks, chips, charts, and strips to create an association between the physical representation of numbers, the number symbol, and the number name.

To find out more visit: [Place Value](#)

### **Model Drawing -- Bar Models**

Model drawing, or bar modeling, is a systematic method of representing word problems and number relationships. It is used in the program beginning in Second Grade. Children are taught to use rectangular bars to show the relationship between known and unknown quantities.

To find out more, please visit: [Model Drawing](#)

To try some sample problems, please visit: [Thinking Blocks](#)

Dear Parents,

As you know, Tolland School adopted Math in Focus as our core mathematics curriculum this year. As part of this program, we are pleased to be able to offer several ways to help promote mathematics during the summer months. We encourage Tolland students to continue to use the digital components of Math in Focus as a way to practice and maintain their skills over the summer vacation. Parents and students have 2 ways to access mathematics materials over the summer.

**Think Central:**

Think Central is an online learning resource that provides an interactive and dynamic learning interface for students. The program offers an all-inclusive web resource for both teachers and students. This is where you will find your child's textbook library. It is important to note that the online resources on Think Central are presented in the form of online or digital textbooks. The digital textbook is a great way for students to review what was taught in class and offers a variety of problems students can do for extra practice with the concepts and skills presented. When you sign in you will see a choice box like the one pictured. Click on My Library and you will have access to the student text and some MIF videos.

To sign into Think Central type the url addresses below or click the link on the Tolland Public Schools web page or enter through the BGP/TIS homepage. Then enter the information below to access your child's individual account.

<https://www-k6.thinkcentral.com/ePC/start.do>

**Sign in: Students PowerSchool #**

**Password(BGP): tolland1**

**Password(TIS): students individual computer id**



**Math in Focus® Digi+™:**

The second online component is *Math in Focus® Digi+™*. *Math in Focus® Digi+™* contains thousands of multimedia resources for students at all ability levels. Each *Math in Focus® Digi+™* lesson contains several components, which are aligned to the *Math in Focus* lessons. We encourage students to use *Digi+* as an instructional tool for independent practice.

To sign into *Digi+* you can use the url address below or click the link on the Tolland Public Schools web page or enter through the BGP/TIS homepage. Then enter the information below to access your child's individual account.

<http://www.mifdigiplus.com/login/>

**Sign in: Students PowerSchool # (numerals only)**

**School id: 1CT0039**

**Password(BGP): tolland1**

**Password(TIS): students individual computer id**

We are excited to be able to offer these opportunities to you as we hope they will help students stay immersed in math over the long summer vacation.

Sincerely,

Kelly L Doubleday

District Math Coordinator