

Mission Addition!

ADDITIONAL Ideas

1. Go on a scavenger hunt around your house and collect a bucket full of your favorite toys, such as horses, animals, dinosaurs, cars, crayons, etc. Use these toys to set up simple addition problems using the blank MISSION ADDITION mats.
2. Use the giant plus and equals sign to display simple addition sentences. You could use fun objects around the house, or the people in your family! What a great educational family experience!
3. Create addition problems all through out the day. While eating lunch add up all the carrot sticks and celery sticks. During the trip to the store add up all the cartons of milk and boxes of cereal in your cart, etc! Just remember the mission is to ADD, not just count!
4. Play addition games on the computer and iPad or iPod. There are so many great educational games available for free or at a low cost.
5. Add up fingers and toes. Bring the whole family together - and their fingers and toes - for more challenging addition problems!
6. Remember to teach kids WHY addition is helpful. A preschooler might find it more beneficial to learn adding if she knows she will be able to add up pennies and nickels in her piggy bank or the number of days until her birthday.
7. It is also a good idea to explain to kids that adding is a faster way of counting things. And I don't know about your child, but mine is all about speed and getting things done quickly!
8. Use pictures of your child's family and friends as a hands-on manipulative to create addition sentences. For example, 3 sisters plus 2 brothers equals...5! Or 10 cousins plus 4 grandparents equals 14!

It is important to adjust learning to your child's needs and interests. Don't hesitate to stop if you sense your child is frustrated. Take a break and come back to it later, or readjust the activity to better fit her needs.

Happy Teaching!

Dear _____,

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to save all the animals in trouble! In order to save them, you need to do three things:

1. Find the "plus" and "equals" sign hiding in the dark, mysterious forest. Put them in your rescue pack!
2. Add the silly fish in crocodile lake.
3. Climb the tallest mountain to help the spiders add using the sticky spiderweb.

HURRY!! The animals need your help!!

Find the "plus" and "equals" sign hiding in the dark, mysterious forest. Put them in your rescue pack (Print the giant "plus" and "equals" sign. Hide them in the living room, bedroom, or any room that resembles a dark and mysterious forest.)

Add the silly fish in crocodile lake. (Use the blank addition mats and little toy fish or Swedish fish. Have your child help the fish find out how many are in their families by solving simple addition problems! For example, one lonely baby fish plus two parents equals....three! To motivate your child to complete the activity quickly, tell them that crocodiles are coming and they want to eat the fish.)

Climb the tallest mountain to help the spiders add using the sticky spiderweb. (Locate a magnetic whiteboard to use as a sticky spiderweb and small round magnets to use as spiders. Have your child use the spiders as manipulatives to solve simple addition sentences written on the board with a dry erase marker. For example, you might write the problem $3 + 2 = \underline{\quad}$. Your child would stick three spiders on the spiderweb, then add two more, then count all the spiders on the web to find the answer! For a fun twist, have your child scream out the addition sentence including the answer to scare away any lurking predators.)

At last! Your child has reached their destination (bag of animals in trouble). If your kiddo is up for it, have them use the animals to create more addition problems. Or just play with the animals... they deserve a little relaxation from all their hard work!





