Do-Anytime Activities for Grade 4

These activities are easy and fun to do with your child at home, and they will reinforce the skills and concepts your child is learning in school.

Unit 1	◆ Help your child identify real-world examples of right angles (the corner of a book) and parallel lines (railroad tracks). ◆ Have your child compile a shapes scrapbook or create a collage of labeled shapes. Images can be taken from newspapers, magazines, and photographs.
Unit 2	◆ Help your child look up the population and land area of the state and city in which you live, and compare these facts with those of other states and cities.
Unit 3	◆ Make up number sentences with correct and incorrect answers. Ask your child to put next to the sentence a "T" if the answer is correct and an "F" if the answer is incorrect. For example, try $5 * 6 = 35$ (F); $6 * 2 + 4 = 16$ (T); $4 * (2 + 5) = 13$ (F). ◆ Continue practicing multiplication and division facts by using Fact Triangles and fact families or by playing games from the *Student Reference Book*.
Unit 4	◆ Gather money from piggy banks or wallets. Ask your child to show you two different amounts, such as \$1.33 and \$4.20. Practice adding or subtracting the amounts. Your child can use a calculator to check the answers.
Unit 5	◆ Have your child write numbers through the millions and billions and practice reading them. Then select two and ask your child to tell which one is the greater number. ◆ Practice extended facts with your child. Start with $3 * 30$, $3 * 300$, and then try $3 * 3{,}000$. Have your child make up extended facts for you to calculate.
Unit 6	◆ Hide an object in a room of your house, and give your child directions for finding it. Your child can move only according to your directions, and the directions can be given only in fractions or degrees. For example, say "Make a $\frac{1}{4}$-turn and walk $3\frac{1}{2}$ steps. Now, turn 180° and walk 4 steps." Switch roles and have your child hide an object and give you directions to find it. ◆ Make a game of identifying and classifying angles: acute (less than 90°), obtuse (between 90° and 180°), right (90°), straight (180°), and reflex (between 180° and 360°) in everyday things (buildings, bridges, ramps, furniture).

Unit 7	◆ Encourage your child to recognize how probability is used in everyday situations, such as weather reports. Have your child make a list of things that could *never happen*, things that *might happen*, and things that are *sure to happen*.
Unit 8	◆ Have your child measure the perimeters of rooms in your house or of household objects. Then have him or her find the areas of the objects. ◆ Help your child draw a scale map of your city, town, neighborhood, or have your child do a scale drawing of the floor plan of your home.
Unit 9	◆ Have your child look for everyday uses of fractions and percents. Look in games, grocery stores, cookbooks, measuring cups, and newspapers. When finding fractions, decimals, or percents, ask your child to change them from one form to another. For example, if you see "$\frac{1}{4}$ off", ask your child to tell what percent is equal to $\frac{1}{4}$ (25%). ◆ Write whole numbers and decimals for your child to read, such as 650.02 (*six hundred fifty and two-hundredths*). Ask your child to identify the digits in the various places in the numbers—hundreds place, tens place, ones place, tenths place, and so on.
Unit 10	◆ Have your child look for repeating borders or frieze patterns (a design made of shapes that are in a line or lined up) on buildings, rugs, and floors. Your child may want to sketch the friezes or draw original patterns. ◆ Use sidewalk chalk to make a number line with positive and negative numbers. Have your child solve addition and subtraction problems by walking on the number line. For example: to solve $-2 + 6$, your child would start on -2 and walk to the right six numbers to find the sum. Switch roles. For an inside activity, use paper, pencil, and fingers.
Unit 11	◆ Have your child find the volume of various rectangular prisms around your house, such as shoe boxes and fish tanks.
Unit 12	◆ During trips in the car, let your child know how far you will be traveling and the approximate speed you'll be moving at. Ask your child to estimate about how long it will take to get to your destination. ◆ When grocery shopping, ask your child to help you find the "best buy" by comparing the cost per unit (ounce, gram, each) of different package sizes. For example, compare the cost of a family-size box of cereal with the cost of a regular-size box.