1. Roll the dice to count and move.

Get practice with low number counting and addition using action dice. Write activities like jump, clap, or stomp on a small wooden block, then roll it along with a pair of dice. Kids add up them up (you could do this with subtraction too) and complete the activity the number of times shown.


Lay out a grid like the one shown that has the answers to whatever set of math flashcards you’re currently working with. (This teacher used masking tape; you could also do sidewalk chalk on the playground.) Two players face off, one on each side of the board. Show the flashcard, and kids race to be the first to jump to the correct square with both feet inside the lines. Get all the rules at the link below.

3. Run a flashcard race.

Tape a series of flashcards to the floor and challenge kids to see who can correctly make their way from start to finish the fastest. They can call out the answers or write them down, but they have to get it right before they move on. Kids can race side by side, or work independently to beat their own best time.
4. **Tell time on a giant clock.**

Draw a giant clock face with hours and minutes on the playground with sidewalk chalk. Choose two students to be the hour and minute hands, then call out a time and send them out to become the clock. Add more complicated elements by having them add to or subtract from the initial time too. (“Now it’s 23 minutes later!”)

5. **Head out on a plot graph scavenger hunt.**

Create a map of your school, playground, or other area using graph paper (or even better – have kids help you do it). Then choose plot points for them to visit to find notes or small prizes. They’ll feel like real treasure hunters!

6. **Create a life-size number line.**

Number lines are wonderful for all sorts of math games and activities. Make one big enough for kids to stand and jump around on using sidewalk chalk (or painter’s tape indoors).
7. Do a number dance...

Kids who love “Dance Dance Revolution” will get into this one. Make a number mat for each student like the ones shown. Flash an equation with an answer between 10 and 99 on the screen. Kids figure out the answer and jump to put their left foot on the correct tens place, right foot on the ones. They’ll be dancing and spinning as they learn!

8. ...or try it with angles instead.

Teach kids about transversals and the angles they create with some fun dance moves! Get the details for “Dance Dance Transversal” at the link below.

9. Make a splash with water balloons.

Fill and label balloons numbered 1 through 20 (or whatever numbers you’re working on). Draw the numbers in a big circle on the playground. Then have a student choose a balloon, find thematching number, and head off to make a splash!
10. Measure the height of a tree (no ladder needed).

Kids will be amazed to learn they can measure the tallest tree while keeping their feet on the ground.

11. Count and learn on a nature walk.

Take an outdoor stroll and practice basic math along the way. This works indoors too; walk the school hallways (quietly) and count doors, windows, posters, and more.

12. Draw a colorful math facts garden.

It’s amazing how many math games you can play with sidewalk chalk! For this one, kids draw a basic flower with 10 numbered petals as shown. Then they write a number to multiply (or add or subtract) by in the middle, and fill in the petals with the correct answers.
13. Hunt for shapes in the world around you.

So simple and so fun! Give students a sheet with shapes to find as you walk around the school or playground. Each time they find the shape, have them trace it on their worksheet and then make a mark to keep track of how many times they’ve seen it.

14. Steal the balls with addition robbery.

Kids compete to see whose basket of balls will add up to the highest amount. The trick? They don’t know at the beginning which balls are worth the most. Learn how to play at the link below.

15. Paint and hide number rocks.

Painted rocks are always a big hit! Have your class help you make these, then hide them around the playground and send them off to find and answer equations.
16. Skip count along a hopscotch board.

A hopscotch board can be used for a lot of fun and active math games. Try it for skip counting: kids hop along counting by 2s, 5s, 10s, or whatever you’re currently working on. Learn more at the link below.

17. Aim and throw to practice math skills.

Pick up a set of Sticky Darts and draw two dartboards side by side. You can label the rings with any numbers you like. Kids throw the darts and then add, subtract, multiply, or divide the numbers – your choice!

18. Design an outdoor board game.

Draw a winding path and fill the spaces with math equations. Kids roll the dice and move from space to space (have them jump, skip, or twirl to mix things up). If they get the answer right, they move to the new space. If not, their turn is over. Customizable math games like this can be used at any level
19. Turn UNO into an action math game.

Grab your UNO deck and get ready to move! Assign each color a movement (hop, touch toes, etc.). As kids draw the cards, everyone completes the movement the correct number of times. Skip and Reverse work as usual, but anyone who gets Draw Two has to draw two more cards, and complete the actions on their own while others cheer them on. See more at the link below.

20. Bowl them over while learning math facts.

Math games using recycled materials are economical and good for the environment. Set up empty plastic bottles labeled one through 10, then roll the ball to see how many you can knock down. Add up the numbers of the knocked-over bottles to get your score.

21. Compete to win at putt putt math.

Make your own putt putt course. This can be a simple game where kids simply shoot for the highest (or lowest) number. But you can also drive up the complexity by putting equations on the cups that kids have to solve first to determine which is the best cup to aim for.
22. Give an old game a math twist.

Give new life to your Twister mat by adding numbers! For more advanced players, instead of saying “Right hand 5,” try saying “Right hand 14 – 9” to make them think.

23. Count money and make change
24. Play board games that involve counting (dice games, card games)
25. Identify shapes at home
26. Practice telling time on a clock
27. Make a map of your home
28. Measure while you cook or bake
29. Measure the size of objects around the home using a ruler, tape measure (in centimeters, inches, yards)
30. Play “guess the number” – have you or your child think of a number and then ask questions to try and guess the number (for example – is it bigger than, is it less than, is it an odd number, is it an even number, can you reach it by counting in 2’s, 5s, 10s)
31. Add up the items on a receipt from the grocery store
32. Math fact basketball
32. Sorting and measurement – sort indoor or outdoor items by size, color, or shape