

# EPISODE 94 • DENISE GASKINS

## Math in Morning Time

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**WRITTEN BY: JEANETTE PASCUA**

### About Denise

Denise Gaskins is a veteran homeschool mom of five, who has a passion to help parents and children see the beauty and wonder of math. She is the author of a dozen playful math books like, *Let's Play Math: How families can learn together and enjoy it*, and her *Math You Can Play* series covering a variety of topics from preschool to middle school math. Her newest title *Pre-algebra and Geometry: Math games for middle school* covers topics perfect for students in grades four through nine. Denise blogs [denisegaskins.com](http://denisegaskins.com).



### Key Ideas

- Math is one of the few subjects in school where we can figure out the answers for ourselves instead of relying on what others have told us. In math, we can test the things that we are taught.
- Math is not about being the fastest person to find the answer. Math is about thinking deeply about an idea. When we homeschool we have the opportunity to teach our children how to make sense of the math concepts that we are teaching and not just teach our children to follow the rules or directions of a math theory or formula.
- Math is beautiful and we can teach our children to see that by playing with math instead of just using worksheets. Using puzzles, art, brain teasers and logic games can open our children up to the big ideas found in mathematics. We can do this in Morning Time by choosing games that allow children of all ages to play along and work with numbers.

## Action Steps

1. Take some time to think about the atmosphere in your homeschool surrounding math. Is it calm and peaceful or stressful? If it's not the positive experience you want it to be, consider taking some time away from your current curriculum and use one of the books discussed in the episode to help your children play with math concepts.

### Time Stamps

2:30 meet Denise Gaskins

6:58 what math is really about

12:19 great resources for exploring math

16:55 thinking outside the box with math

17:55 tips for the mom who feels inadequate

24:52 tips for helping the kid who doesn't want to play with math

28:40 bringing playful math in without dropping your curriculum

36:40 doing math with multiple ages

42:24 math you can play in Morning Time

## Quotables

"In math, we don't just accept what someone tells us. We can figure things out for ourselves."

*Denise Gaskins*

"School rewards children who think fast just by the nature of school, but math, real math is about thinking deeply at any speed."

*Denise Gaskins*

"Real math is about creative reasoning and it has nothing to do with following someone else's rules."

*Denise Gaskins*