

A letter from the creator of Arithmetickles:

Dear teacher:

When I was a child in elementary school, I remember being really frightened of math. Numbers were like a foreign language to me; they never seemed to make any sense. I couldn't relate addition and subtraction, multiplication and division to the real world. In fourth grade our new math teacher began the year by playing games with us.

Games? I couldn't believe that we were allowed to play games in school. And not only games; magic tricks as well. I didn't realize at the time that I was finally learning the power of math. It was too much fun.

The show Arithmetickles is based on audience participation, so every show is different. You can use the study guide that follows (a collection of great games and magic tricks all relating to math) in two (or even three) ways:

- 1) before the performance so that your students will be in the mood for a show that makes math fun, or
- 2) after the performance to demonstrate, once again, how much fun the world of math can be. or
- 3) both!

The games in the study guide are on three different levels of difficulty, as you will see. The How it Works part is to help teachers become great performers. The Why it Works part (for which I'd like to thank our good friend, Leonard A. Smith, a health physicist from Carlisle, Massachusetts, who served as our mathematical consultant) is to satisfy the curiosity of the math lovers among us.

Sincerely,
Ben Bendor

P.S. We would love to hear from you and from your students as well. Please write or email us with any comments, anecdotes, questions or suggestions relating to the study guide that you may have.