Holiday Math Activity Ideas
By Christine Kelly, Primary AISL Mathematics Differentiation Specialist

1. **Deck of Card Math**: Use a deck of cards to play games such as: memory, add two cards together to make combinations to 18, play ‘Go Fish’ with collecting numbers to 18, draw two cards and make the biggest number or smallest number.

2. **Collect and Sort**: For example collect leaves, stones, coins and group them in different ways e.g. by color, size, shape etc.

3. **Home Shopping**: Use recyclable kitchen boxes and cans to set up a shop at home. Label the items with a price, create money from cardboard and shop with your child at home. Children can add, subtract or multiply depending on whether they are the shopkeeper or the shopper.

4. **Race to 50/100**: Use two or three dice. Play with a partner. Roll the dice and either add or multiply the numbers together. Keep a running tally and see who can race to 50 or 100 the fastest.

5. **Shape Scavenger Hunt**: Look around your house and make a list or take a photograph of the 2D or 3D (or both!) shapes you can find.

6. **Holiday Timeline**: Use a timeline to track your holidays with events listed for each day. Add emotions too – by putting the even high above the midline indicating an exciting event and an event below the line to indicate a sad event.

7. **Create a Code**: Use numbers to represent letters and write to each other!

8. **Guess my Number/20 questions**: One person thinks of a number while the other person has to guess what number it is in 20 questions. Use terms like odd, even, more than, less than, divisible by, number of tens, number of ones.

9. **Collections**: Make a collection of numbers that your child is learning e.g. numbers from 1-10, or collections of 10s e.g. 20 buttons, 30 pebbles etc.

10. **Survey**: Design a survey to ask family members. Do you want to know their favorite foods, sports, TV shows? Ask your family and friends and then put this information into a graph. What does this information tell you?

11. **Cook**: With an adult, find a recipe that involves measuring wet and dry ingredients. Carefully measure of the ingredients, put together and bake.

12. **Name Addition**: Find out which names that are worth the most! Each vowel (a, e, i, o, u) are worth 5 points and the other letters are worth 1 point. Which family member has the most points? Which relative has the most?

13. **Tangram Pictures**: Use a tangram template from the Internet, copy and cut out. Use to make a variety of different shapes and animals.

14. **Time Match**: Use a clock or watch that can be easily turned by a child. Write different times on pieces of card or paper. Have your child match the time on the watch to the time written down. Extend this activity by having them make a timetable of the day, writing the time in both analog and digital formats.