



The UNIVERSITY of WESTERN ONTARIO
Faculty of Education

Dear Principal,

We would like your assistance in identifying and talking to families from your school that might benefit from Family Math. "What is Family Math?" you might well be saying.

The Esso Family Math Project is a community-based program, operating out of the Faculty of Education, The University of Western Ontario. Its goal is to assist families who would like their children to experience success in mathematics. Some families may find it difficult to obtain assistance and resources for improvement. Parents may have little mathematics education. Their children fall behind in school. Low-income families, minority families or single parent families often have difficulty overcoming these challenges. The Esso Family Math Project supports these parents by offering them the opportunity to attend Family Math sessions in local community settings.

Research shows that students do better at school when their parents are involved in their education. Many parents, however, are not comfortable being involved in their child's mathematics education because it doesn't make sense to them or because they dislike mathematics. Sometimes, the negative attitudes and fears of the parent are transferred to their children. Involvement in Family Math provides parents with the confidence to better help their children enjoy and understand math.

Family Math sessions educate parents to work with their children in order to develop positive attitudes toward mathematics. Parents and their children attend the Family Math sessions together, and all are actively involved in *doing* mathematics. Trained leaders facilitate the sessions, introducing games and activities that reinforce skills and develop math concepts, as well as fostering an enjoyment for mathematics. Given early support at home and in their community, children have an opportunity to maintain a positive attitude toward math through their school years. Doors remain open and options increase.

We hope you will work with the people meeting with you in identifying those families who are likely to benefit the most from attending this particular program.

Please call me at 519 661 2111 x88558 if you would like any further information.

Thank you for helping to keep those 'doors of opportunity' open.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barry Onslow,
Director, Esso Family Math Centre