

On the right: Parent Math Night at Eastbrook Elementary School in Pike Township, November 9, 2005. The event was hosted for K–2 students and their parents, who watched the parent portion of the *Everyday Math* video, saw video taken in classrooms at Eastbrook, and then participated in games at their child's grade level.

On the left: A kindergarden student from Pike Township graphs sums by throwing dice.



Parent Math Nights Help Students Achieve

All nine of the IU/IMI school districts in Indiana conduct Parent Math Nights several times throughout the school year. Teachers and administrators have been thrilled with this year's turnouts, with many schools reporting increased at-

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Another major resource developed by this project, and a tool that offers great potential benefits to all these stakeholders, is its use of technology and the internet in developing an electronic community that can link all project stakeholders. The most sophisticated and developed use of this electronic network has been for teachers' professional development. This partnership is committed, in its final years, to assist its districts to utilize distance technology and the project's electronic community infrastructure it has developed to continue to achieve the innovative learning and teaching improvement goals beyond the NSF funding period. Again, as with the other goals, the project's success in this innovative area is due to its districts seeing and believing that their commitment and support of this project's objectives is closely aligned with their own high priority compliance goals related to state and federal accountability mandates. It has been a major achievement of this partnership to work with districts to develop high quality best practices in the areas of curriculum, professional development, and assessment that are practical and can be implemented within each of their unique district cultures and done in a way that is closely aligned with NCLB and PL 221.

tendance at each subsequent Math Night. In the elementary schools of one district, attendance ranged from 130 to 200 parents and students for Parent Math Nights.

One important avenue for gaining the support of parents is to show them how the *Everyday Math* program helps their children make the transition from intuition to concrete operations and later to abstractions and skills with symbols. When parents are informed about the goals and methodologies, they naturally take a strong interest in helping develop their children's mathematical and thinking skills.



Families enjoyed playing games, including Coin Exchange, at Math Night at Eastbrook Elementary.