

Program Name: Sum of Our Favorite Numbers

Artist: Laughing Matters

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Special Requirements:

Two 6' or 8' tables

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Special Points of Interest:

Jay has trophies that he won at math contests when he was in high school.

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Performance Description

Do you have a favorite number? Leslie and Jay Cady of Laughing Matters share some of their favorite numbers and explain why they like them. Jay likes 36 because it is a square number and a triangular number. They juggle bean bags and put them on a peg board to make bigger and bigger square numbers.

Many physical education classes use stacking cups for sport stacking relay races. Jay and Leslie and two volunteers from the audience use stacking cups to make bigger and bigger triangular numbers.

Leslie helps Jay with a hilarious lesson about division and remainders using 13 rolls of toilet paper. "The Ruler Who Measured

"Too Much" is a fairy tale full of unit-of-measurement puns. The show concludes with a wacky game of 20 questions.

Part of the battle in teaching math is creating a positive attitude toward it. Jay and Leslie help kids discover the fun side of math.




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Educational Objectives & Standards

Students will:

- Have fun with numbers.
- See various reasons for having favorite numbers.
- Learn about square and triangular numbers.
- Learn units of measurement.

Standards addressed:

- Understands numbers, ways of representing numbers, relationships between numbers, and number systems.
- Identifies people, events, time, and place in classroom dramatizations

## Artist Bio: Jay & Leslie Cady

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### List of Resources:

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#### Books:

*The Book of Numbers*, J. H. Conway, R. K. Guy, Springer, 1996

*Picturing Math* by Carol Otis Hurst and Rebecca Otis. SRA/McGraw-Hill, 1996

#### Online Resources:

<http://mathforum.org/dr.math/>

Have fun with Ask Dr. Math!

[www.cut-the-knot.org](http://www.cut-the-knot.org)

Puzzles, games, and lots of links.

Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

816.531.4022  
KCYA.org

Leslie and Jay Cady have been full-time performing artists since 1980. They have performed their engaging blend of juggling, mime, magic, and wacky dialogue in 32 states and seven foreign countries.

Jay and Leslie enjoy using their big bag of tricks to illustrate and reinforce curriculum concepts. Their infectious sense of fun is a hit with students, teachers, and administrators.

In 1984 they studied with legendary mime Marcel Marceau. They were two of 60 students chosen to study with Marceau in the first

two-week workshop he taught in the United States.

They have two daughters who join the act in the summer. When Jay and Leslie were PTA Cultural Arts Chairpersons they saw the need for school assemblies that reinforce curriculum.

Jay and Leslie have twice been nominated for the "Best of Kansas City Theater Awards". They have performed for ESPN, the National Theater of Guatemala, and the U.S. Department of Defense Overseas Tours.

### Vocabulary

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**Foot** = 12 inches

**Yard** = 3 feet =36 inches

**Meter** = 100 centimeters

**Fathom** = six feet (used to measure depths of water)

**Furlong** = 1/8 mile (used to measure horse races)

**Number sequence:** A list of numbers governed by a rule so you can always find the next number on the list

**Remainder:** If you divide a set of things into smaller equal sets and end up with a partial set left over, that partial set is the remainder.

**Sum:** The answer to an addition problem

**Square root:** If you have a square number of things (4, 9, 16, etc.) and put them in a square, the square root is the number of things on one side of the square.

### Post-Performance Activities

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1. Use pennies or other small objects to make square and triangular arrays.
2. Make a sequence of square numbers ( $1 \times 1$ ,  $2 \times 2$ ,  $3 \times 3$ , etc.).
3. Make a sequence of triangular numbers ( $1+2$ ,  $1+2+3$ ,  $1+2+3+4$ , etc.).
4. Find the smallest number that is both square and triangular (36).
5. Try adding together any two consecutive triangular numbers. The sum is always a square number. Can you see why?
6. Have the students talk about their favorite numbers and why they like them.