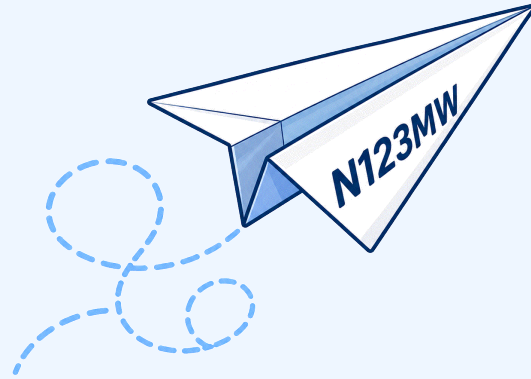


# Math Wings

A hands-on math activity for children ages 4–6



# Overview

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Here is a simple, hands-on activity that uses paper airplanes to make math feel exciting for young students.

Students fold their own plane, give it call letters (a plane identifier number), then fly it and measure how far it went.

Together, you add up the distances and find the average.

The whole thing takes about 30 minutes. All you need is paper and a tape measure.

**4–6**

Ages

**~30 min**

Duration

**Any size**

Group

# What You Need

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<b>Paper</b>	1 sheet per child
<b>Pencils or markers</b>	For writing the call letters on each plane
<b>Tape measure</b>	To measure how far each plane flew
<b>Tape</b>	To mark the starting (throwing) line on the floor
<b>Open space</b>	A classroom, hallway, or backyard all work great

# The Activity

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Start with a short aviation picture book (or two). Recommendations:

- [Peek Inside How a Plane Works](#) by Lara Bryan
- [My Little Golden Book About Airplanes](#) by Michael Joosten
- [The Little Airplane](#) by Lois Lenski
- [A Day at the Airport](#) by Richard Scarry
- [I Am Amelia Earhart](#) by Brad Meltzer
- [Angela's Airplane](#) by Robert Munsch
- [Flight School](#) by Lita Judge
- [Violet the Pilot](#) by Steve Breen
- [The Glorious Flight](#) by Alice & Martin Provensen

## STEP 1

### Mark the runway

Put a strip of tape on the floor. Everyone must fly their planes from behind it.

## STEP 2

### Build your airplane

Each child folds a sheet of paper into a paper airplane. Any fold style works.

## STEP 3

### Name your plane

Every airplane has a unique call sign (a combination of letters and numbers that identifies it). Have each student choose 2 letters and 3 numbers and write them on their plane. (Example: N372KL)

#### **STEP 4**

##### **Fly!**

Everyone stands at the tape line and throws their plane one at a time. Make sure they remember where it went!

#### **STEP 5**

##### **Measure**

Measure the distance from the throwing line to where each plane landed.

#### **STEP 6**

##### **Add it up**

Write all the distances on a whiteboard or large paper. Add them together to get the total.

#### **STEP 7**

##### **Find the average**

Divide the total by the number of planes that flew. That number is the average (the distance a "typical" plane flew). Compare: who was closest to the average? Who flew the farthest?

# How to Fold Your Plane

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