Dear Families:

Today, we played a favorite childhood card game called *War*⎯only we used the game’s German name, which is *Tod und Leben* (Life and Death). There are many variations on this card game, and we added a variation of our own. Instead of recycling the “won” cards, we placed them in a side pile. When we ran out of cards, the players counted their cards and the player with the most cards won. The rest of the rules were the same.

Children love playing card games⎯and many math card games can be very productive learning activities. Math games can help children develop a positive attitude towards math by reducing their fear of making a mistake or failing.

Math card games that introduce and reinforce skills also allow children to operate at different levels of thinking and to learn from one another. One child in a group might be encountering a concept for the first time, while another may be developing his or her understanding of the concept.

Be sure to explore the many math games that you can play with a deck of cards.

Happy card playing!