



Everyday Math

Math helps your child make sense of the world. Investigating numbers will help her begin to understand that numbers refer to how much or how many of something. Throughout the day you can help her build math skills—ask her to compare button shapes as you put on your jackets, sort socks as you fold the laundry, or measure ingredients as you prepare dinner.

Learning about math is an active and hands-on learning process at this stage in your child's development. Don't worry if she doesn't get the right answer, just have fun!

- Bring numbers into conversations with your child: *You have two beautiful eyes and one beautiful nose!*
- When you talk about numbers, use your home language. Speak to your child in the language you know best and feel most comfortable using.
- Let your child see you using math during your daily routines, for example, when you shop (weighing produce) or cook (measuring ingredients) or do laundry (sorting clothes).
- Make counting aloud a regular habit when you spend time with your child. Together you can count the toys you put away or the number of goodnight kisses you give.
- Find numbers on a clock, on a house, on a license plate, or on advertisements in stores.
- Encourage your child to practice writing numbers with her finger on a steamy shower door, with a stick in the dirt, or with her finger on your back.
- Search for things that typically come in sets, such as two feet, twelve eggs, and four wheels.
- Go on a shape hunt and look for squares, rectangles, and triangles inside or outside. Then move on to 3-D shapes: look for pyramids and cubes. Keep in mind that these are much more difficult for your child to recognize.
- Use a variety of household objects, such as colored paper clips or a jar of old buttons, to encourage your child to create patterns. Provide some yarn and help your child make a button necklace or bracelet using a color pattern.
- Notice patterns in the natural world. You can compare how the sun appears in the sky in the morning to how it looks in the evening or how the weather changes throughout the day.
- Measure and chart your child's height so he can see his growth over time. Measure other family members also and compare his height to theirs.
- Trace your child's hand and have her trace your hand. Compare the hands: *Who has the biggest hand? Who has the smallest?* Continue by tracing other family member's hands.