

Getting Ready for Kindergarten:

MATH: WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

Activities can be done in the language or languages spoken at home.

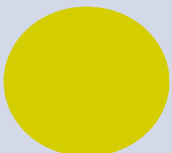
Counting

- Touch and count up to 10 objects together. During playtime, count up to 10 toy cars. Move the cars into a line or a circle and count again.
- When reading any book, have your child touch and count the number of objects in pictures: “1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. There are 7 dogs!”
- Buy or make a set of numerals from 1 to 10 (paper, foam, or magnets work well). Show a number on your fingers. Ask, “Which number shows how many fingers I am holding up?” Switch roles and let your child show a number on their fingers.
- Ask for help with counting during everyday experiences. While cooking, say, “I need 6 mushrooms. Can you count out 6 mushrooms for me?”
- Sing songs that involve counting forward or back, such as “The Ants Go Marching,” “This Old Man,” “Eight Little Ducks Went Out to Play,” or “Eight Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed.”



Geometry

- Have a shape scavenger hunt. Look for circles, rectangles, squares, or triangles in the world around you. Use language to describe and name each shape. “Look! Our door has four sides and four corners. It looks like this rectangle!”
- Practice position vocabulary by playing Simon Says. “Simon says put your toy car above the table. Simon says “Put your hands on your head.”
- Gather a group of household items, such as kitchen utensils or articles of clothing. Encourage your child to match pairs of items, and explain how they are similar and different, using attributes such as color, size, purpose, pattern, or position. **FOR EXAMPLE**, your child might say, “Both of these hats are red, but one has stripes,” or “Both of these are spoons, but the big spoon is for serving and the smaller one is for eating.”
- Develop spatial awareness by building with blocks. **FOR EXAMPLE**, build a structure and ask your child to build a copy. Have a conversation about how they knew where to place each block.



CIRCLE



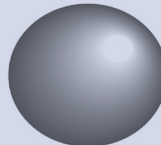
SQUARE



TRIANGLE



HEXAGON



SPHERE



CONE



CYLINDER

Measurement

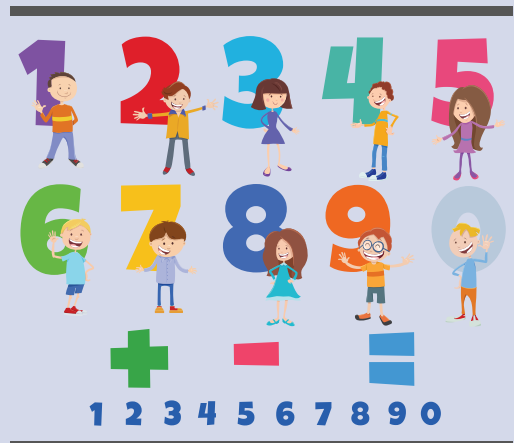
- Create a picture schedule with your child. Include items that occur daily in the morning and evening. Have your child mark off when tasks are completed and have a conversation about the schedule. **FOR EXAMPLE**, “First brush your teeth, then we will read a nighttime story.”



- Play I Spy with household items, providing clues related to their length (longer/shorter) and height (taller/shorter). **FOR EXAMPLE**, say, “I spy something longer than an eraser but shorter than a pencil.” Encourage your child to ask questions (e.g., “Is it a cup?” “Is it a spoon?”), and continue to provide clues until your child is able to guess the item you spied.
- Play I Spy while walking or driving. Look for objects of different length or weight. “I spy something heavy and round.” (A rock!) “I spy something tall and green.” (A tree!) “I spy something shorter than a foot.” (A worm!)
- Use blocks to build trains of different lengths. Ask, “Which train is shorter?” Say, “Let’s try to build another train the same length!”
 - Sizes and Shapes: Ask, “Which container do you think can hold the most water?” or “Do you think all the water in your cup will fit in this bowl?” Pour water back and forth among the containers and make observations.
- While driving or walking with your child, ask them to think of ways to sort the cars, trucks, and other vehicles into categories (by size, color, function, etc.). Choose a category and challenge your child to find and count vehicles that belong in that category.

Addition and Subtraction Stories

- Encourage your child to stick with it whenever a problem seems difficult. This will help your child see that everyone can learn math.
- Praise your child when they make an effort and share in the excitement when they solve a problem or understands something for the first time.
- Make up addition or subtraction stories during everyday experiences. During bath time, say, “You have 3 toys in the tub. Here is 1 more toy. How many toys do you have now?”
- Work on a grocery list together. Have your child write the number of items needed, such as 5 apples, 2 boxes of cereal, or 1 carton of milk.



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