

# Jonathan and His Mommy

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Jonathan and his mother love to go walking through their neighborhood, but they don't just walk, they play their own special walking game! They make up lots of different ways to walk:

zigzag

crisscross

giant steps



Sometimes, they change the way they speak to match the way they walk. When they walk with huge giant steps, they use their deep, loud voices; when they walk with baby steps, they use squeaky little baby voices.

Jonathan and his mommy are thinking like mathematicians as they walk! Each of their different walks has a different pattern, they use words to describe what they are doing, and they find lots of different ways to get from one place to another.

***Before reading the book with a child, look at the cover.***

You might ask:

What do you think this book is about?

If you have heard this story before, what do you remember about it?

***As you read, talk about the book together.***

A question you might discuss is:

Would you like to take some walks the way Jonathan does?

***When you finish reading, share some ideas about the story:***

Which kind of walk did you like best? Why?

Which kind of walk was  
slowest? Fastest?

Can you invent a special walk?

These math activities go with the story by asking your child to find and make patterns.

# Walk and Talk

Jonathan and His Mommy  
ACTIVITY #1

## What this activity is about:

In this exploration, you and your child make up different walking patterns and give them names.

Length of time  
needed:  
15 + minutes.

## Mathematical thinking skills:

- Creating and extending repeating patterns
- Comparing patterns
- Naming and describing patterns
- Reading pictorial symbols
- Measuring distances and time

## What's needed:

- Your copy of the book, *Jonathan and His Mommy*
- Some energy for moving
- A record, tape, or CD of some good music for dancing
- Some paper and pencil, pen, crayons, or markers

## How to do it:

- 1:** Look at the book again and then try to do each of the different walking steps that Jonathan and his mother use.
- 2:** For each walk, help your child to make up a funny name for it. For example, when you try walking in slow motion, you might call it the "snail walk."
- 3:** Invent some new walks and give them names; or make up the names first and then invent a walk that matches the name! (What would a "helicopter walk" look like?)

### TALKING TIP

The word compare is an important math word. It shows that things are alike, or similar. Use it yourself and encourage your child to use it, too. For example, "What would you compare this slow-motion walk to?"

## More ideas to try:

- 1:** Put on some music and try inventing a “dance” by combining two or three of the different walks in a repeating pattern. For example, 2 steps of zigzag, 3 steps walking backwards, and 1 bunny hop.
- 2:** You and your child can make up a simple picture symbol to go with each walk in the book or for some of the ones you make up.  
Take turns with your child holding up the signs while the other person does the walk pictured on the sign.
- 3:** Measure how far your child can go with each walk in one minute. Or you can mark off a certain distance in your yard, on the sidewalk, or at the playground and time how long it takes your child to move that far, using any of her or his special walks.



### TALKING TIP

Use the word pattern when you talk about the dances you and your child make up. For example,  
“These two steps will make a great dance pattern!”