



Exploring Mathematics Everyday With Your Child



Talk together

In everyday conversation use appropriate mathematics vocabulary such as positional words—*over, under, near, behind, in front of, underneath*; shape names—*circle, square, triangle*; and words such as *more than, less than, addition and subtraction*.

Wonder aloud about numbers of things. *Are there more apples or oranges in that bowl?*

Practice addition: *I have three balls and you have one. How many do we have?*

Practice subtraction: *You have four cookies. If you give me one, how many will you have left?*

Look for and talk about numbers everywhere—on clocks, signs, clothing, and appliances

Look for and talk about the shapes in your environment

Make predictions and estimations when doing everyday activities

Explore together

Provide materials that encourage mathematics explorations: shapes, blocks, collections of small objects, items to fill and empty, standard and non-standard measuring tools

Obtain computer programs that allow your child to explore mathematics concepts

Practice meaningful counting: the number of plates on the table, the number of forks needed for dinner

Look for and describe patterns in the indoor and outdoor environments: on book jackets, clothing, in a garden, on buildings. Create patterns of objects, colors, shapes, and words

Sort everyday objects such as laundry, socks, toys and groceries

Read together

Borrow or buy books that have explicit math content: counting, measuring, etc.

Read books that have repeated sequences of events, point out the events and give children an opportunity to make predictions “What happens next?”

Look for math words and concepts in all picture books: numbers, patterns, and shapes

Make your own counting books