



# | Math is Everywhere!

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Parents play an important role in helping their children develop math readiness. You can do it!

## Techniques

- **Count:** There are objects to count all around. Count, count by 2's, etc.
- **Look for patterns and shapes.**
- **Use math words:** up/down, in/out (directions); near/far, over/under (positions); big/small, tall/short (measuring); more/less (comparing).
- **Sing songs, rhymes, finger play, and poems with numbers.**
- **Read books and notice math in them:** count, find shapes and patterns, use math words.
- **Ask questions:** How did you do that? Why did you do that? Asking how and why helps children to think about math and talk about it.
- **Play games:** sorting games, card games, board games, dice, dominos and more.
- **Model good counting habits:** touch every item, line items up, move items that have been counted and repeat the last number with emphasis—"...7, 8, 9. There are 9 pencils!"
- **Use O.W.L.** - Observe (what your child is doing, then ask a question), Wait (for an answer), and Listen (to what your child has to say, then respond).

Have fun!! Children learn math through play, practice and making mistakes.

## Resources

- Early math development: <http://www.zerotothree.org/child-development/early-development/supporting-early-math-skills.html#key>
- Math activities for young children: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/math/activities/>
- Tips by age: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/childdevelopmenttracker/one/mathematics.html>



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Everyday activities are a wonderful opportunity to talk about math! Math is everywhere!

When	What
<b>While dressing your child...</b>	Count articles of clothing (one sock, two socks) or buttons. Ask questions: “We did three buttons. How many buttons are left?” Talk about sizes and make comparisons.
<b>While you are busy...</b>	Give your child objects to sort: Mixed cereals, toys, chunky crayons, plastic cups, bowls, or containers, socks. When the child is done, talk to them about how they sorted or have your child count the sorted objects.
<b>While cooking...</b>	Talk about measurements and have your child help. “We need three cups. We just put in the first one. How many more do we need?” Compare sizes of measuring cups.
<b>While going somewhere...</b>	Count objects: doors, manhole covers, red cars, bikes, trucks, streets passed. Notice numbers on buses, houses, and cars. Notice patterns and shapes around you – signs, fences, bricks.
<b>While playing...</b>	Use blocks, Duplos, and Legos to build structures, learn about shapes and combine them, compare sizes, and count. Playing in the sand box or with water in the bathtub helps children compare sizes and think about measurement. Puzzles help develop spatial thinking.
<b>At bath time or bedtime...</b>	Count the parts of your child’s body. Count fingers up to ten. Recite rhymes together like “Five little monkeys jumping on the bed.” Read books with numbers in them, and look for and talk about numbers, shapes and patterns in the books that you read.