



| Math and Young Children

Techniques

- Count: There are objects to count all around. Count, count objects, count by 2's, etc.
- Ask questions: How did you do that? Why did you do that? (Ask regularly but not all the time). Asking how and why helps children to think about math and talk about it.
- Use math words: more, less, over, under,
- Sing songs, rhymes, finger play, and poems with numbers.
- Read books with math in them.
- 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!!

Do Math – during Play!

When	What
Play games...	Card games, board games, dice, dominos, as well as active games such as beanbag tossing, and hopscotch, help children learn about numbers, strategies, movement and spatial concepts.
Play with everyday objects...	Children stretch their imaginations and develop the understanding of 3D shapes when playing with everyday objects. For example: paper towel rolls can be looked through, rolled, or used to make towers in a castle.
Play with the same toy again and again...	Blocks, Duplos, and Legos help children 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.
Count your playful actions...	Many games and activities call out for counting. How many times can you bounce a balloon in the air before it touches the ground? How many times can you skip rope?



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Do Math– during Everyday Activities!

When	What
Getting your child dressed...	Count articles of clothing (one sock, two socks), count buttons. Ask questions: “We did three buttons. How many buttons are left?” Talk about sizes and make comparisons.
While you are busy...	Give your child objects to sort: Mixed cereals, gummies, toys, chunky crayons, plastic cups, bowls, or containers, socks, coins (for older children). When the child is done, talk to them about how they sorted or have your child count the sorted objects (or count for them).
While you are cooking...	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.
While walking or riding the bus...	Count objects: cracks in the sidewalk, doors, manhole covers, red cars, bikes, trucks, streets passed. Notice numbers on buses, houses, and cars. Notice directions -- cars and buses go two ways on most streets and you can name these -- e.g. North/South, toward school/away from school, etc.
While waiting...	Play “Guess my Number”: “I’m thinking of a number between one and ten” and have your child try to guess (or have child think of a number and you guess). Make it more interesting by allowing child to ask questions “Is it bigger than or less than five?” or “Is it even?” or use different bookends for your number (e.g. between 10 and 20).
At bathtime and bedtime...	Count the parts of your child’s body, noting that she has two of some things, but just one of other things. Count fingers up to ten, and notice that it doesn’t matter whether you count them left to right or right to left! Recite rhymes together like “Five little monkeys jumping on the bed.” Read books with numbers in them, and look for and talk about numbers in the books that you read.