



HELPING
YOUR CHILDREN
LEARN AND ENJOY
MATHEMATICS

DISCOVERING THE MATH IN YOUR HOME

Math is everywhere! It's in the world that surrounds us, it's in nature, and it's in your home, both inside and out. By pointing out the math in everyday life, you can help your young child learn some basic concepts and understand why math is so important.

If your child is in kindergarten or one of the early grades, you can really reinforce the math they're being taught in school with practice at home. Math at home doesn't have to happen sitting at a desk. During playtime, on a walk, while you're fixing dinner, or when your child is just looking for something to do—these are all great opportunities to suggest a math activity. Here are a few ideas that will help your children discover—and use—the math around them.

IN A PLAY AREA, YOUR CHILD CAN:

- Count blocks as he or she builds a tower.
- Sort toys by size, kind, or color.
- Put dolls, cars, or blocks in order from largest to smallest.
- Play “What am I thinking of?” by describing a toy's size and shape.
- Play make-believe “store” with toys and play money.

IN THE KITCHEN, YOUR CHILD CAN:

- Look for familiar two-dimensional shapes—circles, squares, triangles, etc.—like a round plate or square napkin.
- Put cans of food in order by size or type.
- Sort silverware from the dishwasher to the drawer.
- Count plates, utensils, cups, or even olives.
- Divide a plate of cookies evenly so that each family member gets an equal share and decide what to do if there are some left over.
- Find how many glasses of milk are in a full milk carton.
- Help you double a recipe, or cut one in half.

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AROUND THE HOUSE, YOUR CHILD CAN:

- Count the days on a calendar until a special event.
- Find the length and width of a room by pacing it off.
- Draw a diagram of how to rearrange furniture in a room.
- Make a “map” of the whole house.
- Create a family TV schedule and track the amount of time watched.

OUTSIDE THE HOUSE, YOUR CHILD CAN:

- Set up and operate a lemonade stand.
- Plant a garden with rows and columns of seeds.
- Count the petals on different flowers.
- Measure a sunflower or bean plant daily, keeping track of how it grows.
- Count how many times he or she can jump rope or shoot baskets in a row.
- Keep a daily chart of the temperature.
- Find triangles, squares, circles, and rectangles around the neighborhood.



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