

Math Activities for Young Learners and Families

Early childhood | Preschool–Kindergarten

Explore math while you play and go about your day. Try one activity at a time using things you already have at home. Keep it playful and follow your child's interests.



Count and compare

● Set the table

Ask your child to put one napkin at each place. Count how many you need. Ask “Do we have enough?” or “How many more do we need?”

● Count some toys

Gather a few blocks or toy animals. Touch or move each item as you count together. Ask “How many altogether?” Start with a small group and add more as your child is ready.

● Which group has more?

Make two groups of toys. Ask “Which has more? Which has fewer? Are they the same?” Match one item from each group to check.

Explore shapes and spaces

● Go on a shape hunt

Look for circles, triangles, squares, and rectangles around your home. Talk about their sides and corners. Turn a shape and notice that it is still the same shape.

● Build something together

Use blocks or boxes to make a tower, bridge, or home for a toy. Use words such as *above*, *below*, *beside*, *inside*, and *between* to describe where things go.

Sort and make patterns

● Sort the laundry

Group socks by color, size, or design. Ask “How did you sort them?” Then try sorting the same items another way.

● Make a pattern

Try clap–tap–clap–tap or arrange spoon–fork–spoon–fork. Ask your child to keep the pattern going or make one for you to copy.

Measure and solve problems

● Compare lengths

Place two objects side by side with their ends lined up. Ask “Which is longer?” Use same-size blocks placed end to end, without gaps, to measure a book or toy.

● Tell a toy story

“Three animals are playing. One more joins them. How many are there now?” Move the toys and count together. Try another story where one leaves.

● Talk about their thinking

Ask “How did you figure that out?” or “Can you show me?” Give your child time to think, move objects, and try again. Use the language your family is most comfortable speaking.

Use large, child-safe materials and supervise activities. Avoid small objects with children who may put them in their mouths.