

Nurturing Early Math Minds: A Guide for Families

Why Support Math at Home?





Families play an important role in children's early math development. Early math skills support children's later success in school and beyond. By embracing everyday opportunities to explore math with your child, you can lay a strong foundation for their future mathematical success.

Tips for Parents and Caregivers:

- + Positive Mindset Matters:** Fostering a positive attitude toward math can influence the identity your child builds around math.
- + Make it Fun:** Incorporate math into games, songs, and everyday activities, like cooking, setting the table, and going for a neighborhood walk.
- + Be Patient:** Allow children to explore and learn at their own pace. It is okay for children to make mistakes. Mistakes help them learn.
- + Use Real-Life Examples:** Show how math is used in everyday situations, such as telling time, measuring ingredients, or calculating change.
- + Include math talk:** Families can use math talk during almost any activity. Math talk can easily be introduced during daily routines, such as snack time (e.g., "You and your sister can each have five grapes.").

Find resources to support math explorations:
Visit countplayexplore.org

Mathematics is more than numbers; it's about patterns, shapes, and problem-solving.

-  **Counting and Numbers:** Count toys, snacks, and other everyday objects. Sing counting songs and play number games to make learning fun.
-  **Measurement:** Measure while you cook. Compare the sizes of objects. Use words like big, small, long, and short.
-  **Patterns and Sequences:** Look for patterns in daily routines, such as the sequence of getting dressed. Create patterns with toys, colors, or even claps and stomps.
-  **Shapes and Spatial Thinking:** Point out shapes in the environment and explore spatial concepts like above, below, and beside.



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