

count · play · explore

DISCOVER THE POWER OF MATH

Early math activities for you and your child to enjoy together.

Babies Count: Count your baby's snack. "1 blueberry, 2 blueberries, 3 blueberries."

Toddlers Count: Count while exercising. Stretch out your arms and make 5 small circles with your arms. Count them. Make 5 large circles with your arms. Count them.

Preschoolers Count: Count leaves. Look at different types of leaves. Notice that some leaves have many small leaflets growing on the leaf stalk. Count the leaflets. Which leaf has the most?

Kindergarteners Count: Count around your home. How many steps from your bed to the kitchen? How many hops from your bathroom to the nearest table? How many skips from the front door to the back door?

Grade School Kids Count: Go on an insect hunt and count the insects you encounter. Graph where you found the insects. Where did you find the most?

Babies Play: Have fun hiding a toy and then discovering where it is together. Is it next to the rattle? Is it under the blanket? Is it on top of the crib? Use words like "on," "under," and "inside" when talking about where the toy might be.

Toddlers Play: Make your own puzzle. Cut up a picture into several large size pieces and mix them up. Encourage your child to assemble the pieces so it looks like the original picture. Talk about where each piece goes.

Preschoolers Play: Use recycled objects to make a musical instrument. Make a sound pattern with the musical instrument you made.

Kindergarteners Play: Have a shape scavenger hunt. Find objects that are triangles, squares, hexagons, octagons. Try this while riding in a vehicle or taking a walk.

Grade School Kids Play: Play number charades by acting out a secret number with your body, gestures, or sounds. How could you act out the numbers 53, 9, or 412?

Babies Explore: Explore bubbles. What happens when a bubble is touched? Does it make a difference if a bubble lands on a wet or dry surface? Can your baby touch a bubble without popping it if their hands are wet? Talk about bubble sizes.

Toddlers Explore: Explore ramps. Find out what will roll down a ramp and keep on rolling. What stops at the bottom of the ramp? Does the height of the ramp make a difference?

Preschoolers Explore: Explore weight. Make a clothes hanger scale and compare the weight of different objects. Scale instructions at <https://bit.ly/3koPv7z>.

Kindergarteners Explore: Explore the phases of the moon. Notice the moon each day/night for a month. Draw what the moon looks like. How does it change over time?

Grade School Kids Explore: Find pictures of abstract art online. What shapes and colors can you identify?





STEM FAMILY ACTIVITIES

for independent learning

HIDE AND SEEK



Activity:

1. Play Hide-and-seek with your family. You can play this game inside or outside. Decide who will be "It" and everyone else gets to hide. Play multiple rounds with everyone getting a chance to be "It." When you were "It," what was challenging? Why was it easier to find some players or harder to find players? When you were hiding, what was challenging? What did you try to do in order to not be seen?

Optional Technology Connections:

Play hide-and-seek with animals in nature. Can you find the camouflaged animals?

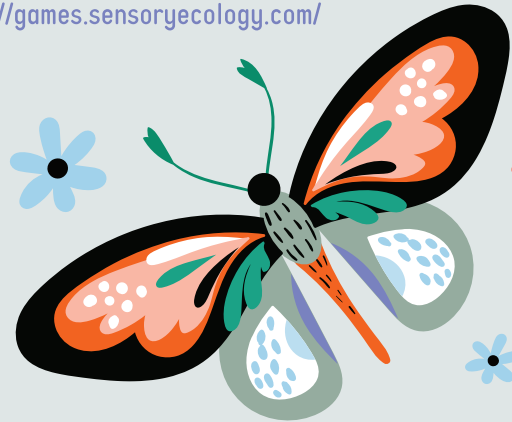
tinyurl.com/findtheanimals



2. Many insects are able to hide from predators by using camouflage (blending in with their surroundings). Let's explore how this works. You will need a piece of paper and crayons (brown, green, black, red, yellow, and orange). Split the paper into 6 sections and color each section one of those colors. Carefully cut or tear the colored sections into small pieces. Take the colored pieces of paper outside to a grass or dirt area. Spread the pieces out on the ground and have a parent or sibling pick up as many pieces as they can in 10 seconds. Record what colors they picked up and how many. Play multiple rounds. What do you notice? What do you wonder? How does color help insects survive?

Try this online game to test your moth-hunting abilities. It's harder than it seems!

<http://games.sensoryecology.com/>



3. Draw a butterfly on a piece of paper and color it so that it is specifically camouflaged to a certain location either inside or outside your house. Place the butterfly on that spot and have someone look for your butterfly. Did they find it?

Watch this video to see 12 of the coolest camouflage animals and insects.

tinyurl.com/12coolest



Optional: Go to this link to print a "STEM journal" to record your observations and questions.

tinyurl.com/STEMjournal13



fresno county
superintendent of schools

For more resources or support, contact
Jon Dueck, FCSS STEM Direction – jdueck@fcoe.org
or visit our website: stem.fcoe.org