

Many people think of math as a subject we begin to learn about in school. Interestingly, math is a part of children's everyday lives. Think about it. Math is measuring, sorting, building, noticing patterns, making comparisons, counting, and knowing the names of shapes. Infants and toddlers begin to learn about math as they touch and feel objects, look at colors, compare patterns, or notice that there are multiple objects in a space or room. Here are some fun ways to explore math at home.

Math in the Bath:

- Compare and Contrast
 - » Comparing and contrasting draws attention to what a child is doing and builds a child's math vocabulary. As you talk with your child, you are providing them language to describe and compare. Talk with your child about what is happening. "Your hand is wet. Your face is dry." "The yellow duck floats. The red round cup sinks." By mentioning colors and shapes, your child learns additional ways to categorize objects.
- Counting
 - » Instead of dumping toys into the bathtub, take an extra minute to place them in one at a time and count them as you go. Counting toes and fingers is another great way to help children understand the concept of counting. Repeated exposure to counting is what helps children learn.



Nesting Instincts:

- Skills Activity Builds:
 - » Measurement.
 - » Putting Items in Order by Size.
- What You Need:
 - » Empty Food Boxes (such as cereal, macaroni, cracker).
 - » Measuring Cups.
- What to Do:
 - » Have your experiment to find out which boxes or measuring cups fit inside of one another.
- Ideas to Support Your Child's Learning.
 - » Ask your child questions such as:
 - "What do you think will happen if you try to put this one (pointing to the small box) inside of this one (pointing to the larger box)?"
 - "What is another way you could try to get the boxes to fit together?"
 - » Use measurement vocabulary such as longer, shorter, wider, narrower.



Sort and Match

- Skills Activity Builds:
 - » Sorting.
 - » Categorizing.
 - » Colors.
- What You Need
 - » Different Color Sock Pairs.
 - » Cardboard Box.
- What to Do.
 - » Put about 4 pairs of socks in the box. Make sure the socks are separated from each other.
 - » Ask your child to reach into the box and pull out a sock.
 - » Continue having your child reach into the box and pulling out one sock at a time. As your child pulls out a sock, encourage them to match the sock with others that have already been pulled out.

