



Tip Sheets for Families

Early Math Tips for Families

Math is all around us. Ideal teaching moments for learning about math occur all day. Caregivers can help by using everyday activities to focus children's natural curiosity and enthusiasm. Math ideas to focus on during daily routines include:



Measuring A sense of size and weight is the beginning of understanding how to measure. When kids fill cups with water and then pour them out at bath time, they learn about full and empty, heavy and light, larger and smaller.

Patterns Patterns are things that repeat. Pattern recognition is a foundation for higher math. Singing songs, repeating nursery rhymes, and stringing beads or blocks in simple patterns, such as blue-red-blue, build pattern recognition.

Shapes Recognizing shapes is a math skill related to geometry. Babies learn about size and shape when they figure out that one shape fits into the shaper box and another does not. Point out rectangles, squares, circles, stars, and other shapes in books, street signs, or when cooking.



Sorting Ask children to sort objects by how they are alike and different. You could ask your toddler to pick the yellow shirt to go with the yellow socks or to separate the shirts and socks into two piles. Look for ways to sort by color, shape, size, or other features when playing with blocks, doing laundry, shopping, or setting the table.