



Kentucky Center for Mathematics

Building Mathematical Foundations...

According to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, parents' attitudes toward their children's education, and their involvement in it, have a significant impact on children's success in school. In addition, the American Psychological Association has published studies showing that a strong early start in mathematics leads to later success in school. Look for ways to make mathematics fun and interesting at home, such as:

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| COUNT | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Count forward and backward with your child, starting at a different number each time.• Play store with your child, asking for delivery of a certain number of objects. Ask your child to write the number on an order sheet. Then adjust your order by returning some objects or asking for more. Ask your child to predict how many there will be when removing or adding objects.• Count by tens forward and backward starting at different numbers (such as 6, 16, 26, 36, ... or 78, 68, 58, 48, 38, 28, 18, 8).• Play board games, such as "Chutes and Ladders," which involve moving pieces along a pathway. |
| GROUP | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have your child make equally-sized groups of toys or objects. Talk about the number of groups, the number of items in each group, and the total number of items. Write a matching addition fact and multiplication fact. For example, if you have 4 paper plates and each has 3 frogs, you could write $3 + 3 + 3 + 3 = 12$ and you could write $4 \times 3 = 12$. |
| COMPARE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask questions about comparing quantities, like, "Are there more forks or spoons?" or "Can each person have a pencil?" |
| ORDER | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask your child to put the day's activities in order. Ask "What did you do after ___?" or "What did you do before ___?"• Write numerals on index cards. Have your child read the numerals then put them in order. |
| SORT | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sort toys into categories, like hard or soft; toys with or without wheels, toys with or without eyes, toys that can or can't be used to build, etc. |
| FLASH | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Briefly show some of your fingers and ask your child to tell or show how many there were. |
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