

Play Counts

Enjoy mathematics with your child




Newfoundland
Labrador

Listening and Talking to Your Child

Young children share their thinking by touching objects, acting, and drawing. You can help young children use words to explain their thinking by asking questions, such as:

Can you tell me more?
Why did you think to do that?
How do you know that?
Can you find out?
Can you think of another way to do it?
How many more if Nanny and Poppy come to dinner?
How do you know?

Or comments like:

Tell me what you see.
We have lots of time. Don't rush.
I wonder if...
Great work. I see you are really trying.
I see you have two equal parts. You divided it in half.

Math is Everywhere!

During playtime

Ask: "Do you have more dolls or more bears? How do you know?"

In the kitchen

Measure ingredients for a recipe.



At mealtime

How many spoons do we need? Why?

In the backyard

Which plant is the shortest? The tallest?



Partners in Learning

Families are one of children's most valuable resources in supporting and guiding mathematical development. Talking and listening to children, asking them to explain their thinking, and making mathematics fun through play and everyday activities help them to develop a positive attitude towards mathematics.

How can you help develop an "I can do it" attitude in mathematics?

- Make mathematics part of daily activities.
- Show you believe your children can succeed at mathematics.
- Be positive and encouraging.
- Let them take time to figure out the problem.
- Praise their efforts.
- Talk about mathematics.
- Ask questions that encourage them to explain their thinking.
- Use materials like blocks and counters to support their thinking.
- Accept that all children learn differently.

Play Counts

Enjoy mathematics with Your child

Play provides opportunities to learn, to laugh, and to build a loving relationship with a child. The support of adults in exploring mathematics through play and everyday activities is an important part of a child's mathematical development.

Read on for some fun math activities you can do at home.

While travelling

Sing and chant number songs, riddles, and rhymes.



At bedtime

Read books that have counting, shapes, or numbers.

While shopping

Count the grocery items as you put them into the cart.

While driving

Name the shapes of the traffic signs.



123456789 Number

Number is used to count, to tell how many, and to add, subtract, multiply and divide.

Suggested **Number** Activities:

- Take advantage of every opportunity to count objects. Touch items when you count. Double check counting. "Yes, you have four!"
- Learn the number names in order - one, two, three, up to at least ten.
- Count backwards and forwards.
- Count toys when you are putting them away.
- Sing and chant together counting rhymes, songs and riddles. "One, two, buckle my shoe..."
- Play games like "Snakes and Ladders" and "Dominoes".
- Use the calendar to count how many days before the weekend, a birthday, or the end of the month.



Patterns

The ability to find patterns in the everyday world helps children to find patterns in mathematics, and prepares them for the study of algebra in later grades.



Patterns are found in nature, art, music, movement, and children's stories, as well as in mathematics.

Suggested patterns Activities:

- Create patterns by clapping your hands and stomping your feet (clap, clap, stomp, clap, clap, stomp). Have your child repeat the pattern.
- Encourage your child to create patterns by clapping and stomping. You can repeat the pattern your child makes.
- Look for patterns in stories and songs. Talk about the repeating part of the pattern.
- Look at wallpaper, tile floors, walls of buildings, clothing or gift wrap and talk about the patterns you see.
- Make gift wrap using designs that have a repeating pattern.



Measurement

Measurement is used in many everyday activities. We use it to find our height and weight, and the length, width, area and volume of objects. We also measure with time and money.

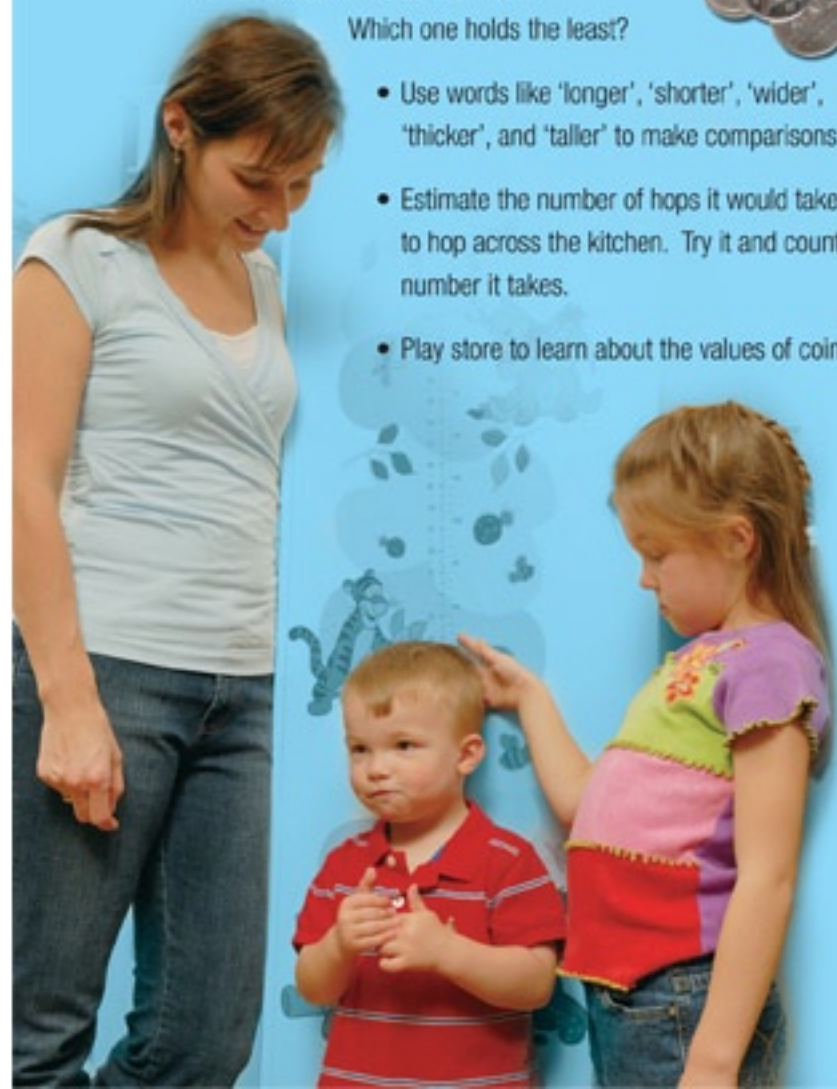
Suggested Measurement Activities:

- Measure your children's height yearly on their birthdays. Talk about how much they grew that year.
- Have fun at bath time filling and pouring from containers of different sizes and shapes. Which container holds the most?

Which one holds the least?



- Use words like 'longer', 'shorter', 'wider', 'thicker', and 'taller' to make comparisons.
- Estimate the number of hops it would take to hop across the kitchen. Try it and count the number it takes.
- Play store to learn about the values of coins.



Geometry

We live in a geometric world. Being familiar with shapes, positions, directions and movement will help children in their understanding of mathematics and prepare them to better understand their environment.



Suggested **Geometry** Activities:

- Identify items in the household and outdoors by shape.
- Talk about how shapes are alike and different.
- Use blocks or boxes to build towers. Ask: "Can you build it higher? Can you help me build a tower like yours?"
- Hide a toy and ask your child to find it. Give clues using words such as 'over', 'behind', 'between', 'next to', 'under', 'through'.
- Play "I Spy":
I spy something that looks like a cone.
I spy something that looks like a triangle.




**Newfoundland
Labrador**
Education