

Math with Your Kindergartener



You are your child's first and most important teacher. You can help your child be successful by talking about math in your daily life, helping with homework, and choosing activities like games and puzzles that help children practice basic skills. When talking about math, make sure your child can tell that you think math is useful, important, accessible, and interesting.

Math in Family Life

By the end of kindergarten, children should be counting to 100, reading numbers to 31, writing numbers to 20, using pictures and objects to solve simple addition and subtraction problems, comparing the length, weight, or capacity of different objects, and identifying basic shapes. The examples below might give you some ideas about how to practice these and other important skills with your kindergartener as you go about your daily life.

At Home

- Use the calendar to count up to or back from a special day, like a birthday or holiday.
- Ask your child to help by counting household items, for example, forks for a large family dinner or quarters for lunch money.
- When counting large numbers of things, help your child group and count them by 2's (2, 4, 6...), 5's (5, 10, 15...), or 10's (10, 20, 30...).

At the Store

- Ask your child to count the items you want to buy, for example, 10 cans of tomatoes.
- Ask your child to add with objects. (*I picked out 2 oranges and you picked out 3 oranges. How many do we have altogether?*)
- Ask your child to subtract with objects. (*We have 7 apples. I think that's too many. If we put 2 back, how many will we have left?*)

On the Go

- Have your child watch for your bus or train. (*Tell me when you see the bus with a 19 on it.*)
- Look for and discuss 2-D and 3-D shapes. (*I see something that's a cube. Can you find it? or Can you see some rectangles out the window? How about circles? Do you notice more rectangles or circles?*)
- Talk about the time it takes to get somewhere or the times on bus or train schedules. (*It's 3:05. The bus is supposed to come at 3:09. How many minutes will we have to wait?*)

Math Materials to Have at Home	Games That Use Math
<p>Keep these items in your home and help your child use them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ruler • measuring cups • measuring tape • measuring spoons • blocks • real money: many coins and bills of different amounts • calendar • clock with hands 	<p>Playing games together is a relaxed and effective way to improve students' basic skills. Games like the ones listed below are appropriate for kindergarteners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chutes and Ladders</i> • dominoes • <i>Candyland</i> • <i>Connect Four</i> • checkers • Simple card games like Go Fish and Hearts

For more information about helping your kindergartener with math, including suggestions about library books related to math and online practice games, go to www.mathlearningcenter.org/resources/materials/parentsK.asp.