

Make it Count! Play • Sort • Measure



Family Literacy Week
January 22 – 29, 2023

Numbers and math are everywhere. Children start using math the moment they start exploring the world. Sorting, counting and measuring are ways of playing with math. Talking about math with children helps build a positive attitude towards math. Math talk helps your child connect math with daily activities.

Key Messages:

- Numeracy is an important skill to help children learn about the world around them.
- Children develop an understanding of math and numeracy through play and everyday activities.
- Math talk enriches everyday learning experiences for children. They watch and learn from their surroundings.
- Math talk helps children develop language and an understanding of numbers in their everyday life.
- Math talk can help children be confident and successful in math as they grow older.



What is numeracy?

Helping your child develop strong early numeracy skills builds their confidence, develops vocabulary and sets them up for success.

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“Numeracy is the ability to understand and work with numbers.”

– [Oxford University Press](#)

“Math talk is simply talking to your child about the math that they experience.”

– National Association for the Education of Young Children

What is math talk?

When you hide your face behind your hands and say, “One, two, three, peek-a-boo!” baby learns to anticipate seeing your face after you count.

When you walk down the street and say, “Let’s count the light poles! I see one light pole! Oh, I see another! That is two. Do you see another one?” you are counting, adding and having fun!

When you shop and ask, “Which one is a better deal, five apples or a bag of apples?” children learn skills like estimating, comparing and money management.

The goal of math talk is for children to explore, engage and have fun with math. Ask open-ended questions to keep the conversation going!

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What can families do at home to support daily math?

- Doing puzzles helps children learn about shapes. Playing games like Go Fish and Cribbage helps them understand math concepts.
- Ask open-ended questions like “how” and “why” as children play math games. This can help them explore math concepts and deepen their understanding.
- Talking about math with children can happen anytime and anywhere – when you change diapers, at bath times, during mealtimes and play time.

Where can I get more ideas?

- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). (Spring 2022). Teaching Young Children, 15(3) naeyc.org/resources/pubs/tyc/spring2022
- Decoda Literacy Solutions decoda.ca/math-fun-indoors-and-outdoors/
- Young Mathematicians youngmathematicians.edc.org/
- Hynes-Berry, M. (2019). *Where's the math? Books, games, and routines to spark children's thinking*. Washington, D.C.: NAEYC.
- Turrou, A.C. (2021). *The young child and mathematics*. 3rd edition. Washington, D.C.: NAEYC.

References

JUMP Math. (2022, January 31). Five Ways to Deepen Students' Numeracy Skills at Home. <https://jumpmath.org/ca/blog/five-ways-to-deepen-students-numeracy-skills-at-home/>

Morin, A. (n.d.). Math skills at different ages. [https://www.understood.org/en/articles/math-skills-what-to-expect-at-different-ages?_sp=d2afb444-967b-4029-ab1e-63355bda1008.1654637330482#Babies_\(ages_0%E2%80%9312_months\)](https://www.understood.org/en/articles/math-skills-what-to-expect-at-different-ages?_sp=d2afb444-967b-4029-ab1e-63355bda1008.1654637330482#Babies_(ages_0%E2%80%9312_months))

National Association for the Education of Young Children. (n.d.). Math Talk with Infants and Toddlers. <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/math-talk-infants-and-toddlers>

Victoria State Government. (n.d.). Birth to Level 10 Numeracy Guide. <https://numeracyguidedet.global2.vic.edu.au/>

