



Using Mathematical Words and Phrases

Everything you do with your baby, your toddler and your preschooler will help him be ready for school. When you talk with your child, introduce Math Words and Phrases. In your everyday conversations, in the kitchen, in the laundry room, when you're outside, or in a store, count out loud, use sentences that include numbers and talk about the size of things. You will help your child's brain grow by using these *ParentTips*.

INFANT:

- Sing nursery rhymes like, Mary had a Little Lamb and Three Little Kittens to introduce your infant to numbers and sizes.
- Use body movements (lifting and lowering arms) with songs like Hickory, Dickory Dock and The Itsy Bitsy Spider to teach your baby concept words up and down.
- Notice sizes that fill your baby's world. Point out his big teddy bear, the small toy car, the large red ball, the smaller blue ball.

TODDLER:

- Use number words with your child whenever you can. "In five minutes it will be bedtime." "This makes two times we've gone to the store today!"
- Talk to your toddler about the "ingredients" for making bubbles. First, you open the soap suds and dip the bubble wand inside. Then, you gently blow and then the bubbles fly away. You can do all sorts of things with bubbles: catch them, pop them with your finger, clap them between your hands. You'll be surprised at all the different words you can use to talk about bubbles!
- Use words such as "over," "under," "above," "on," and "next to" when talking with your toddler. "Let's put the top on the pan." "We need to pull your shirt over your head." "The scotch tape is on the shelf next to the paper."

PRESCHOOLERS:

- Ask your child questions with numbers: "How many colors would you like to paint with? Let's see. One, two, three..." or "Is our car second or third in line?"
- Use classification vocabulary: some, all, part, pair, set, different. "Can you help me find a pair of blue socks?" "Are you ready for some lunch?" "Which toy is different from this truck?"
- Use the language of measurement: fill, load, balance, area. "I am filling the washer with a load of laundry." "The whole living room area is going to be painted."
- Use words like solid, full, surface, inside, below, flat, top. "Let's put the solid ice cubes inside the cup." "Can you put the round bowl below the microwave?" "I see the cereal on top of the refrigerator."
- Describe things clearly: "I need the empty bucket next to the fence." "Let's find the biggest pillow for reading time."