



## Making Math Fun

Math is all around us! You can support your child's mathematical thinking through the things you do everyday. Invite your child to figure things out. Math concepts – "Are there enough blocks?; Is this bigger than?; Is it lighter or heavier?" are important concepts that you can enjoy doing with your child. Before your child goes back to school, spend time with him brushing up on fun math skills. The Early Years are important.

### INFANT:

- Let your infant play with safe objects of different shapes, colors and sizes. Help him place plastic mixing bowls inside one another or stack cans, boxes or blocks.
- Talk with your child during everyday activities. Tell him everything you are doing. Ask lots of questions. For example. "Mommy is cooking dinner. Doesn't it smell yummy?" If your baby is ready for table food, be sure to let your baby try it and ask, "Do you want more?" Or when it's time to take a bath, "Is the water warm or cold? Is the washcloth soft or rough? Doesn't it feel soft on your tummy?"

### TODDLER:

- Go for a rain walk. Be sure to bundle up in a rain coat and rain boots, use a rain shield on the stroller, or open an umbrella. Ask your child: "What do you see?" Point out the raindrops on leaves, worms, puddles? Don't worry if your toddler gets wet while he's exploring. When you get home, change your clothes and talk all about what you saw. Be sure to talk about the different shapes and textures of the objects.
- Go on a Leaf Hunt. Take a walk with your toddler and collect leaves. When done, talk about how the leaves are different: which are big/small, narrow/wide, or sticky/smooth. Then, help your child name the colors of the leaves. Finally, help your child to line the leaves up by size, from big leaves to little leaves.

### PRESCHOOLERS:

- Bake cookies with your child. Read the recipe to your child. Let your child measure the flour, count the eggs, or pour the milk. Have your child set the timer for baking.
- Play target or basket games such as beanbag toss, air hockey, hopscotch, or bowling.
- Ask questions to help your child to figure things out: "Are there enough cookies for everyone to have another one?"
- Invite your child to guess the weight of pets, family members, or toys, and then check the weight on a scale. You might help her make a chart of her results.