



Building Numeracy Skills at home



With a little creativity, you can make math lots of fun! Here are some easy things that you can do at home to help your child with math.

- There are many games that you probably already have at home that encourage development in numeracy: Yahtzee (basic addition), Connect Four (problem solving, developing strategies), Puzzles (spatial awareness), Card Games (have players flip cards and greatest or least number wins), Monopoly (money), Battleship (coordinate graphs), etc.
- Talk about the calendar with your child. Make it exciting by looking forward to special events. It is fun for them to count the weeks and days until birthdays or to see what day of the week a specific holiday will be on this year.
- You can help your child learn to count money and calculate change by playing shop with them. Use real coins and let them be the 'cashier'.
- Use an empty egg carton as a counting tool to practice addition and subtraction skills up to 10. Simply place an object in slots and use the empty slots to count up to/from 10.
- Notice the clock. Tell them that they can play a game at a certain time.
- Bake with your child. Read the instructions and allow them to measure ingredients.
- You can develop a better understanding of fractions by discussing equal parts with your child. Any time you have pizza (or cake!), it is an opportunity to let them understand what $1 / \frac{1}{2} / \frac{1}{4}$ means.
- Making flash cards of basic addition or subtraction facts can be an easy way to practice. You can make it a game by seeing how many they can answer in a minute. If they improve their score over time, reward them.
- Any time there is a DIY project happening at home that involves measuring, let your child help! This allows them to understand that the concepts they are learning in school have real world applications.
- Point out shapes and discuss them. If you see a 'stop' sign, discuss the shape and ask your child how many sides would be on 2 or 3 'stop' signs.
- Pick out two coins and ask what is the difference in value (biggest take away the smallest).
- Count your steps as you take a walk. Count by 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s.
- Go on a 2D and 3D shape hunt around the house and discuss the features.



Building a reader at home



Explore Books!

Give your child an opportunity to explore books. Visiting a library or book shop gives your child a chance to find topics and books that interest them.

Read, Read, Read!

Make sure to read for at least 20 minutes per day. Children can read independently, aloud to an adult, or back and forth with a partner.

Make it desirable!

Encourage your child to build a reading nook, get cushions/blankets and somewhere cosy to snuggle up and read.

Ask Questions!

- × Predictions
- × Characters
- × Main Idea
- × Problem
- × Solution
- × Retell story
- × Lesson to be learnt

Be an example!

Children learn by example, so let your children see you read whether it be a book, newspaper, cookbook, etc.

Pick good fit books!

A book that is a good match for your child should meet the following requirements:

- purpose for reading
- interest
- can they understand what they are reading?
- can they retell the story?
- do they know what it was about?

For beginning readers!

- Memorize sight words
- Ask questions before, during and after
- **Don't immediately tell and unknown word to your child.** Instead, ask them to:
 - sound out the word
 - break the word into parts
 - use illustrations for clues
 - skip the word, re-read sentence, and go back- what word would make sense?

Next steps:

- ✓ Notice interesting, new vocabulary words, and make it a challenge to use them in conversation (WOW words)
- ✓ Read with expression.
- ✓ Explore non-fiction books and their text features (diagrams, table of contents, etc.) along with other genres as well.
- ✓ Compare and contrast books.
- ✓ Discuss connections to literature- can they relate what they are reading to their own life?
- ✓ Think of new titles for books.
- ✓ Explore multiple books from the same author.

Reciprocal reading!

- **Predictor;** use features of the text to figure out what might happen next.
- **Questioner;** who/what/where/when/why/how?
- **Clarifier;** identify confusing words and define them.
- **Summarizer;** retell in your own words.

If you have any queries about how to support your child's reading please talk to their teacher.