
Numbers, Numbers Everywhere: Make Your Child Aware

As parents, we have so many opportunities to create in our children an awareness of numbers as part of everyday life — an exciting part as well as necessary!

Make your conversations rich with math vocabulary — wonderings. (*I wonder if there's a box this present can fit into. I wonder how many pairs of socks are in the wash . . . who had the most pairs. I wonder if you weigh more in your pajamas or in your snowsuit.*)

Rather than correct your child's number attempts, **ask questions to encourage further exploration** or self correction. (*Count again and see if you get the same number.*)

• **Inventories or hunts can be fun.** *How many pairs of brown shoes are in our house? How many windows do we have? . . . doors? What couldn't fit in our door? Show your child the tally method for keeping count (|||| 11). How many light switches? — single, double, triple? What things in our house have numbers on them? Why are these numbers on them?*

Encourage your child to make collections of rocks, stamps, button, lids, keys. Compare and sort them by color. *Can you think of another way to sort (shape, size)? Estimate how many or how much of something will fit. Was your estimate too few/ too many/just right?* Create designs and patterns with the collections.

Play commercial as well as homemade games. Help your child create her own board game using a spinner or dice for moves and drawing with permanent markers on a piece of shower curtain to make the gameboard.



Feel free to let your young child create his own rules. **Allow negotiation** between children when there are disagreements about rules, letting them solve the problem if possible. This promotes thinking skills as they reason out their own positions.

Make a cardboard dollhouse of your own with your child. This helps your child understand spacial relationships.

Develop a chart of Things Happening Today. Talk about what you'll do first, last, etc. It might be fun to do this with photographs or to let your child draw the pictures.

Including children in household chores makes them feel important and needed, and it provides opportunities for number activities.

• **Setting the table:** Inexpensive plastic placemats with silver, glasses, plates, and napkins outlined with black permanent marker insures success on the job.

Use Math Words

<p>large</p> <p>small</p> <p>full</p> <p>empty</p> <p>first</p> <p>second</p> <p>third</p> <p>fourth</p> <p>last</p> <p>under</p> <p>over</p> <p>around</p> <p>through</p> <p>beside</p> <p>behind</p> <p>above</p> <p>between</p> <p>below</p> <p>front</p> <p>middle</p> <p>back</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p>	<p>infinity</p> <p>more</p> <p>less</p> <p>a lot</p> <p>little</p> <p>big</p> <p>same</p> <p>different</p> <p>equal</p> <p>single</p> <p>double</p> <p>triple</p> <p>high</p> <p>low</p> <p>whole</p> <p>half</p> <p>all</p> <p>none</p> <p>wide</p> <p>nothing</p> <p>everything</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p>	<p>light</p> <p>heavy</p> <p>up</p> <p>down</p> <p>out</p> <p>forward</p> <p>backward</p> <p>sideways</p> <p>short</p> <p>bottom</p> <p>tall</p> <p>next</p> <p>many</p> <p>few</p> <p>narrow</p> <p>some</p> <p>circle</p> <p>square</p> <p>rectangle</p> <p>in</p>
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- **Laundry:** Sorting by color (light/dark), size, family member; matching by pairs; measuring soap.
- **Grocery shopping:** Helping make the list, identifying, matching with coupons, counting the number of items.

- **Picking up:** Pick up round things, five little things, don't pick up blue things.
 - **Cooking:** Measuring, counting, estimating, shape making, and tasting, too.
- Let your imagination wander!

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