
Ready for School News: Math Activities for your Home

You don't need "school" materials to help reinforce math skills at home. Just take a look around your house and you'll find learning opportunities all around. Here are some ideas as well as the preschool and kindergarten goals they tie in with:

Preschool and kindergarten goals: Identifies and extends existing patterns (AB, ABC, AAB, AAB, etc.); also, Creates new patterns.

Guess My Pattern: Give your child an assortment of dried pasta shapes, stickers or pieces of cereal. Let him or her start a pattern with the pieces (such as "Cheerio, Chex, Cheerio, Chex.") Add on to your child's pattern, then switch places; you make a pattern for your child to finish.

Preschool and kindergarten goals: Counts and names sets of 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5; Matches numerals to sets of 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5; Utilizes writing materials to document observations.

Counting Scavenger Hunt: Have your child hunt around the house and count how many of each of the following items you have in your home: tables, chairs, sofas, doors, doorknobs, etc. Have them document their findings by drawing a picture of what they are counting and then writing the numeral next to the picture.

Kindergarten goal: Estimates and measures using non-standard measures

Measuring With String: Help your child put yarn around his/her waist and cut it to be the same size. Use the string to measure different items around the room. Can he or she find three items longer than the string? What about three items shorter? How about three items the same length?

Kindergarten goal: This activity gives children beginning experience with the idea of subtraction which may begin to be introduced at the end of kindergarten or beginning of first grade.

Hidden Objects: Hold small objects, such as marbles, in one hand. (You would only use such small objects with children over three). Let your child count them. While your child closes his or her eyes, put some of the objects under a bowl. Have your child look at the remaining objects and ask if they know how many you hid under the bowl.

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