

EARLY MATH AT HOME

EASY TIPS FOR PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN



COUNT

Count items encountered in every day tasks such as cooking and cleaning (e.g. number of potatoes put in water, number of seeds in a common fruit, number of sticks found on a walk, etc.). First count the items for your children, then ask them to count with you. Finally, ask them to count items for you.

SORT

Ask your children to sort objects found in and around the home. Items can be sorted by shape (e.g. Can you find me things in the shape of a circle? How many circles did you find?), size (e.g. Can you put big sticks for the fire in this pile, and little sticks in this pile? How many sticks did you find?), color (e.g. Can you find me something red? How many red things did you find?). Then you can ask the children to put the items back where they found them!



ADD

Start by making sure your children can count objects. Then you can put one additional item in the pile, and ask them to count again. For example, you have four potatoes. Have your children count them and tell you how many potatoes you have. Then place one more potato, and ask them to count again. They should tell you there are now five potatoes. At first, you can tell them that you added one potato. As they learn, you can begin to ask them how many you added.

SUBTRACT

Start by making sure your children can count objects. Then remove one item from the pile, and ask them to count again. For example, you have four potatoes. Have your children count them and tell you how many potatoes you have. Then remove one potato, and ask them to count again. They should tell you there are now three potatoes. At first, you can tell them that you subtracted one potato. As they learn, you can ask them how many you subtracted.



PLAY WITH SHAPES & SIZES

Ask your children to sort by shape or size. You can also have them order objects from smallest to largest or create patterns with objects (e.g. square, circle, triangle, square, circle, triangle). They can cut their own shapes from newspaper to develop their hand-eye coordination or group bottles by shape and size.

ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN TO DO ONE OF THESE TODAY!

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