

Math Tips For Parents

FOR YOUR 4-YEAR-OLD'S LEARNING

Parents are children's first and most important teachers and are critical to their children's success in school.

Parents and other family members can work with children to promote early number and math skills through simple, everyday learning experiences as they go about their daily activities.

Here are some ideas for you to use with your four-year-old that will support the development of the math skills he or she needs before starting kindergarten.

Discuss the sequence of events: "What happened yesterday?" "Where are we going today?" "What will we do tomorrow?"

Ask your child to guess how many cups of water it will take to fill a pitcher. Together fill the pitcher and talk about estimating and checking guesses.

Make a calendar together and have your child mark off the days until his birthday or the trip to see Grandma and Grandpa.

Provide opportunities for your child to develop an understanding of space - filling and emptying containers, building with blocks, and observing objects from different viewpoints. Talk about spatial concepts such as "full" and "empty," "long" and "short," and "high" and "low" as you do this.

Look for shapes on signs, buildings, and other objects as you ride in the car or bus together. Talk about similarities and differences among the shapes.

Use positional words to ask your child to find something or put something away: "Look in the bottom drawer," "Find it under the box," or "Put it beside your bed."

Together count out the number of plates, bowls, forks, or spoons needed for a family meal.

Sort blocks or other objects by color, length, shape, or size.

Math Tips For Parents

FOR YOUR 5-YEAR-OLD'S LEARNING

Parents can continue to support their children's learning and development while they are in kindergarten.

Here are some tips for everyday activities for you to do with your five-year-old that will support his or her success with Minnesota's new Kindergarten Academic Standards in Mathematics.

Collect groups of objects such as buttons, stones, or bottle caps and sort them by size, color, or other characteristics. Encourage your child to arrange his collections into groupings, making up rules together.

Create a pattern with blocks, pegs, or beads and ask your child to copy or continue the pattern.

As you prepare for a snack with playmates, ask your child, "How many crackers do we need so that you and your friends can each have two?"

Talk about measurement words – teaspoons, tablespoons, one cup, a half-cup – as you cook together.

Play counting games in the car or as you walk down the street. "Let's count how many dogs we will see between home and school." "Let's count how many trucks we can see on the way to the store."

Play board or card games together that involve counting, moving a certain number of spaces, or matching numbers.

Start a growth chart of your child's height and weight that your child can check frequently, and discuss changes as he or she grows.

Count as you do daily activities with your child – the number of steps to the basement laundry, the number of letters or catalogs that come in the mail, the plates or bowls you will need for setting the table for a family meal.

* For additional information, visit the MDE Web site at:
<http://education.state.mn.us>

or the Ready4K Web site at: www.ready4k.org



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