



TODDLER

Math Everywhere!

By talking with your child using 'math' words, you are encouraging him to think with curiosity and help to investigate things around him. A few of these words include same, different, large, small, up, over, down, under, etc. The important thing is by including these words in your daily communication, your child will learn the math concepts over time. Real experiences of math concepts like numbers, shapes, and measurement are a great way to get your child to learn (and he will not even know he is doing it!).



Toddler Math Activities

Teaching math to toddlers is actually really easy. Think about your regular day and the math concepts that you see and explore each day.

- Counting cars
- Pointing out the color of things
- Counting how many jumps you can do
- Pointing to different shapes in the park
- Counting how many peas are on your plate
- Looking for numbers on mailboxes

Movers and Shakers

Toddlers love making noise. Use old soda bottles, medicine jars, oatmeal boxes, etc. and fill them with beans, rice, marbles, or anything that makes fun noise. Be sure to seal the boxes tightly because some of the small items may be choking hazards. Your child can decorate the sealed containers with paints or markers and then you can sing "Shake Your Sillies Out" and go to town making music.

March with your child around the house while making music. Count your marched steps. See if your child notices any pattern of noise that she is making, also.

Build It Up, Knock It Down

Many toddlers are only used to stacking interlocking LEGO types of blocks. Instead use regular wooden blocks or stack empty tissue boxes in order to promote controlled release and balance during stacking. See how many blocks your child can stack and then make it fun by encouraging him to knock them down. Talk about the color of the blocks and count when stacking.



*Activities should be done under the supervision of an adult or older sibling.

Please see below for some additional activities that you could try with your child.



Pom-Pom Patterns

Create a strip of circles either drawing and coloring or using the computer. Put six circles on the page using a pattern, ex., green, pink, green, pink, green, pink or green, green, pink, and repeat. After the strips of papers have been created, sit with your toddler and talk to them about what they see. Does she see a pattern? Can she name the colors? Next, add green and pink pom-poms to the mix. Encourage your toddler to put a pom-pom on the top of the circle that is the same as the pom-pom. Another important reminder—talk with your toddler about what is happening. Words can be powerful in the learning process.

I Spy Numbers

Everyone loves to read the I SPY books. This takes a little different spin to the concept.

What you will need:

- Foam numbers
- Animal figurines
- Dice, dominos, other numerical game pieces
- Tray for each number

The first tray will have a foam number zero in it. This one with nothing around the number. This will help to drive home the point that zero means nothing.

Tray 1 (one) - Add one button, one treasure chest, one puzzle piece, one ball. Thomas the Tank Engine has a number one. The letter A is the first letter of the alphabet (that might be more of a challenge to explain how "1" and "first" are related).

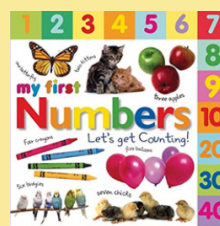
To play, set the tray before your child and take turns saying, "I Spy". Emphasize the number one in each item spotted. Matching items is also a great idea (match anything that actually contains the number 1 on it, for example).

Continue on with each number having its own tray. The number of trays depends on how much your child can talk and understand the game.

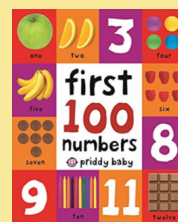
Sorting Toys

Have your toddler go through his toys and start by shorting them by the name of the toy... trucks, cars, ball, trains, etc. Next, sort them by color...all the red toys in a pile, all the blue toys in a pile. It would be interesting to see your toddler attempt this on his own and then ask him how and why he sorted them accordingly. I am guessing you will get a few interesting answers!

Books



*Tabbed Board Books:
My First Numbers:
Let's Get Counting!
(My First Tabbed
Board Book)*
by Dawn Sirett



First 100 Numbers
by Roger Priddy