

Fun With Math

Measurement



Math is all around us! Your toddler has been developing math ideas and skills from the moment they were born.

We use math language every day, often without noticing. Research has shown that this matters. Laying a strong foundation with **early math talk**, makes it easier for your child to grasp more difficult concepts later.

Math Talk

Math talk grows with your child. It is *simply talking to your child about the math that they experience* (naeyc.org). For example, you can count the trees on your block (“Let’s count the trees! I see one, oh, here is another, that’s two, and another one, that’s three.”) or you can sort clothes (“This t-shirt is little, that’s yours, this one is bigger, it’s mine.”).

We know that children learn best through joyful, playful activities in the context of a loving relationship.

Let’s Explore Measurement

Children develop an understanding of measurement very early on. Distinguishing between big and small dogs on a walk, being told they’re too small for a particular activity, or noticing that someone got a bigger piece of cake than they did are just some examples.

Including a number that shows the size or the amount of something defines measurement. We measure things all the time, and kids’ early ideas of this concept lay the foundation for more complex mathematical thinking later.

Activities

On your next walk around the neighborhood, take a look around. Can you find some plants that are as tall as your child? How do you know? Stand next to them and compare.



Compare your child's hand to yours using words such as longer, wider, smaller, and thicker. Count your fingers and point out how many you both have. Now find an object to measure. How many of your child's hands does it take to measure it? How many of your hands? Does it take more of your little one's hands?

In order to get an accurate measurement, we use tools. You can try three measurement tools:

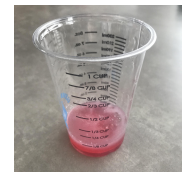
Use a **ruler** to measure toys and other objects around the house. This is also a fun way to learn how to read numbers. Ask your child to read the measurement to you, then write the number on a sticky note and attach it to the object. Lining up the ruler correctly to get an accurate measurement is a learned skill. Practice together!



A **sand timer** is a really fun way to measure time. How many times can your child jump up and down before all the sand has collected on the bottom? How many breaths do they take when they're jumping before the sand runs out? How many breaths do they take when they're sitting still before the sand runs out?



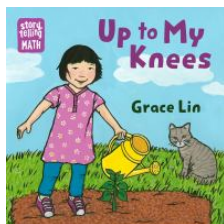
Use a set of **measuring cups** at the playground, at the beach, even in the bathtub. There are so many ways to play, learn, and discover math with measuring cups.



Math Language

Here are some math words to get you started: bigger, smaller, taller, shorter, longer, more, less, measuring, comparing, and tool.

Let's Read



Up To My Knees! by Grace Lin

Mei plants a seed and watches it grow. Soon the little plant is up to her toes, then her knees, then her waist. How tall will it get?