



Wee Learn

Wee Learners
(4 - 5 years):
Make Math Fun



Have you ever sung a counting song with your child? Asked your child, "Which tower of blocks is higher?" Said, "One for you, one for your sister and one for me, as you passed out apple slices?" If so, you've been preparing your child for future success in mathematics building numeracy, which is simply the understanding of numbers and the ability to reason with them.

A good foundation. You can use the following activities and opportunities to build a strong foundation. You don't need any complicated equipment. You can count anything, starting with your child's two hands!

- **Counting** - A four year old might be able to say the numbers up to 30, but chances are he can only think logically about five objects.
- It takes practice for children to learn that counting means assigning one number to each object. Start early to develop this awareness with a game of "Simon Says": "Simon says, take two steps forward. One. Two."
- **Shape recognition** - Craft activities are a chance to talk about geometric shapes: "Here's a circle for the face. Can you choose two circles for the eyes?"
- **Comparison** - Get children interested in comparisons by talking about them: "Your fingers are longer than the baby's."
- **Sequence** - Putting things in order is an important mathematical skill. Putting things in order of size. For example, making a row of cans from the tallest to the shortest.
- **Matching and grouping** - You can combine matching and grouping with household chores. Get your children to help sort socks into pairs. Suggest they put all the blocks into one box and the toy cars into another
- **Measuring** - At first, children can measure things with their bodies. "How many times can you put your hands across the book?" Cooking also provides lots of opportunities for measuring ingredients. For example one tablespoon, 2 cups, three cups.

Get inspired and make up your own activities to enrich playtime and your family routine. With the attitude that math is fun, your children will be on the road to future success with handling the mathematics of daily life.

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