

Simple, everyday activities to help develop your child's math skills

STANDARD: Counts Out Loud; Counts Objects

- ☐ **COUNT ALL DAY LONG** Make a point of counting objects to ten throughout your day. Count food items as you put them into your grocery cart; count socks when you are doing laundry; count your child's fingers and toes at bathtime.

STANDARD: Recognizes Numbers

- ☐ **FIND NUMBERS** Point out number symbols when you go places. For example, at the pet store, say, "The numbers tell us how much the dog food costs."
- ☐ **WRITE NUMBERS** Practice writing numerals 1 to 10. Help your child write numbers in sand outside or on a cookie sheet covered with flour or salt.

STANDARD: Recognizes Shapes

- ☐ **PLAY A SHAPE GAME** Using child safety scissors, cut paper into a variety of shapes (circles, squares, rectangles, triangles) and play shape-guessing and matching games.

STANDARD: Compares Numbers and Quantities

- ☐ **PLAY A NUMBER GAME** Place a raisin, cracker, or another snack in front of each of you. Give your child a second piece. Ask: "Who has more now?" Keep adding pieces back and forth up to five, asking who has more each time.
- ☐ **MAKE COMPARISONS** At the sink or in the tub, let your child pour water in and out of two equal-sized containers. Ask: "Which one has more water in it now?"

STANDARD: Experiments With Adding and Subtracting

- ☐ **ADD AND TAKE AWAY** Collect toys or small-sized snacks, such as crackers or cereal pieces. Make a group of two. Count them aloud with your child. "Let's add another. Now how many do we have?" Try adding and taking away amounts up to five and then up to ten.
- ☐ **NUMBER STORIES** Use stuffed animals, snacks, and songs to act out addition and subtraction stories, such as "One potato, two potato, three potato, four."

STANDARD: Sorts and Groups Objects

- ☐ **SORT THE LAUNDRY** Lay out clean laundry you are folding. Ask your child to find all the socks. Then have your child sort them by color. "How many of each color do we have?" Continue with shirts, towels, or other items.
- ☐ **IN THE DRAWER** Take all of the small items out of a kitchen drawer and help your child sort them into groups that have something in common (such as color, function, size). How many different groups can you make?

STANDARD: Explores Measuring

- ☐ **COMPARE LENGTHS** Place different-sized objects side by side. Have your child tell which object is longer and which is shorter. "Which are longer, your shoes or my shoes?"
- ☐ **MEASURE WITH HANDS** Show your child how to "measure" something by placing hands in front of one another across a surface. "This table is about four hands long." "How many hands long is this pillow?"

STANDARD: Uses Position Words

- ☐ **PLAY HIDE AND SEEK** Hide some toys. Give clues using position words (*under, behind, on, inside, above, and below*). "This toy is behind a chair." Change roles so your child hides the toys and gives the clues.

STANDARD: Recognizes Patterns

- ☐ **CONTINUE THE PATTERN** Use plastic construction toys, blocks, or other items to make a simple color pattern, such as red-blue, red-blue. Ask your child to continue adding to the pattern. "What color comes next?" Try more challenging patterns if your child is ready.
- ☐ **CLAP A PATTERN** Ask your child to repeat a pattern using hand claps and thigh taps, such as clap-clap-tap, clap-clap-tap. Then ask: "What comes next?"