

Today's Topics: Numbers

Overview and Things to Know:

Today we talked about numbers. We intentionally did not call it "math". Some of us have negative emotional reaction to mathematics. It is important to avoid letting that cloud the discovery and curiosity associated with math and numbers that occurs in early childhood. In fact, preschool math skills are the #1 indicator of future academic success. We want to empower you to use our tools to encourage discovery around numbers and mathematical concepts. Early math domain includes counting and operations, spatial relations, measurement and data and patterns and algebraic thinking. We have divided the math domain into two topics: Numbers and Patterns.

Activities We Did:

- Follow the Leader (Spatial Relations)
- Musical Numbers (Number Recognition and Counting)
- Number identification
- Counting

Things to Try at Home:

Our goal is simple: to make math a fun part of kids' everyday lives. Informal spaces provide a great opportunity to point out mathematical thinking. In early childhood children are just beginning to figure out how counting works and what it tells you. They are learning the sequence of number words. They're figuring out the one-to-one correspondence and cardinality. Each child learns differently. Asking your child questions about the world around them helps with learning. You can try things like sprinkling math words into conversations with your child. Words used to compare or describe spatial features are a great place to start. For example, while building with blocks you might ask, "Should we add another block on top?" or "How many more blocks will we need to make it taller than you?" Don't worry if your child doesn't already know all of the math vocabulary you use; using new concepts in real-world contexts is the key to helping kids build meaningful understanding. In order to correctly count a set, children have to understand cardinality, or the idea that the last number you say as you count out a set is the same as the total amount. One way to help kids build this understanding is to emphasize the cardinality each time you count. For example, while counting out three bears, say: "One, two, three! There are three teddy bears!"

Songs to Listen to:

- Johnny Had One Friend by Ella Jenkins
- 3 is the Magic Number by Elizabeth Mitchell
- Jumping and Counting by Jim Gill
- 5 Little Ducks by Raffi
- The Ants Go Marching by Laurie Berkner

If You Want to Dive Deeper:

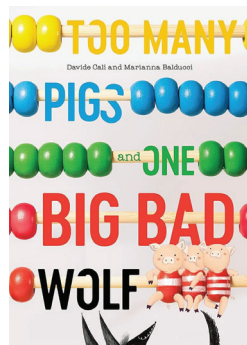
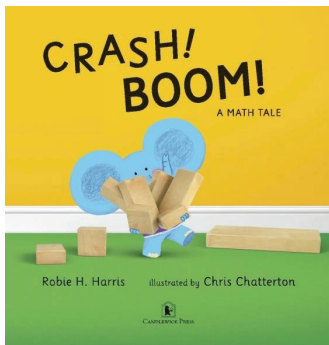
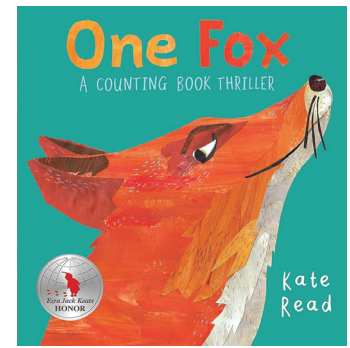
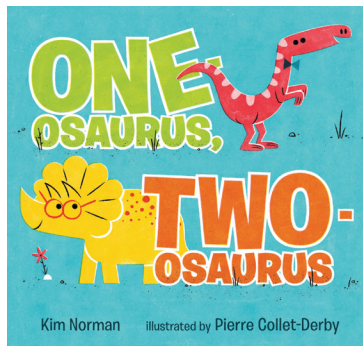
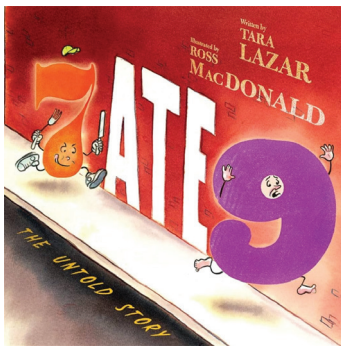
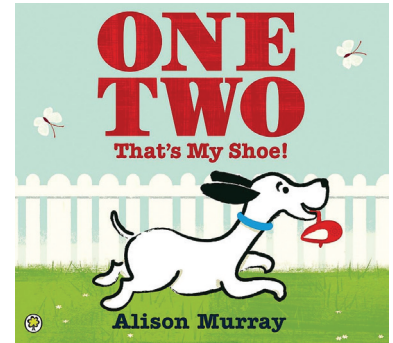
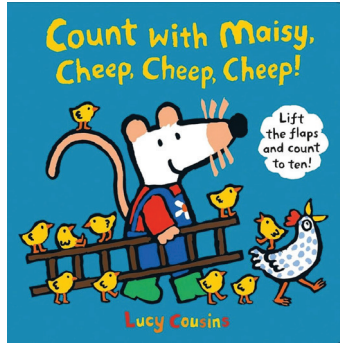
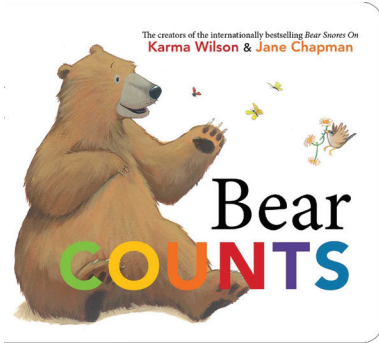
Connect math to their interests: Your child's favorite games or toys can be used as a gateway to math! Does your child love dinosaurs? Sort their favorite dinosaur toys by size and find the largest or smallest. Are they into pretend play? Open an ice cream shop and count out the right number of scoops and the total cost for each order.

Keep it fun: The emphasis at this age (and all ages, in our opinion!) should be on enjoyment and exploration. If your child is showing signs of frustration or disinterest, switch activities or take a break. The goal is to connect and make math fun, not a chore!

Avoid memorization: Encourage understanding over rote learning. If they can understand the "why" behind a concept, they'll remember it far better than if they simply memorize it. The goal for each of our activities is to help kids build a meaningful number sense, not just to be able to find the "right" answer on a flashcard. From <https://www.growintomath.com/blog/starthere>

Books to Check Out

For the Pre-Kindergartners



For the Grownups

