

# Early Mathematics

Young children are natural mathematicians and engage in mathematical experiences every day! Mathematical thinking emerges, naturally when young children explore the world and notice patterns, make predictions, estimate how much, measure the size of things and discover that objects in real life resemble geometric shapes. Children learn basic mathematical concepts as they play at the water table, build with blocks, bake cookies and sort their laundry. Math is truly all around us.

One way to help your child extend his/her mathematical thinking is by describing your child's experiences in mathematical language and engaging your child in doing mathematics together:

- Use more number words in your everyday language. Instead of saying, "Could you please put the napkins on the table?" ask, "Could you please put four napkins on the table?", or "How many napkins do we need? Let's figure it out!"
- Find quantities around the house. "What do we have four of?"
- Connect counting to meaningful experiences. Compare quantities. You may ask, "How do you know you have more crackers than me?" Counting is a way to find out!
- Observe similarities and differences. "Do the bean plants and tomato plants have leaves that look alike?"
- Measure things. "How many cups of flour do we need to add?". "How many cups of water will it take to fill this container?"
- Find and point to the shapes around you.
- Find and point to the patterns in the physical environment around us. "What do we do everyday after breakfast?" "Look at the pattern on your shirt! It is red, blue, red, blue!"

We have also prepared many fun math activities to do to help extend your child's mathematical thinking even further! You will find them in the General and Weekly math folders. Have fun learning about math!