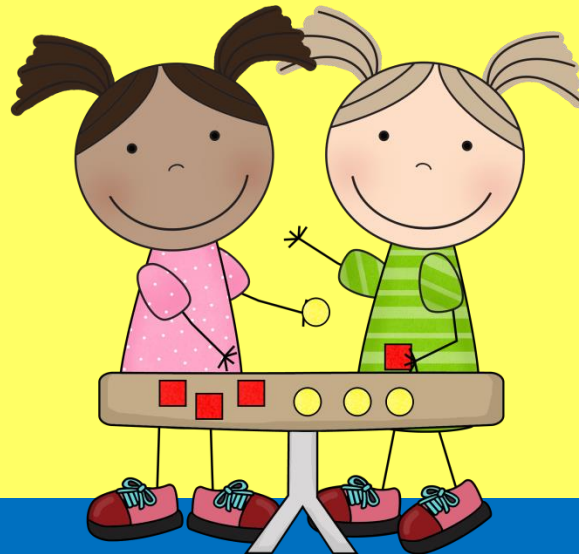


# MATH activities FOR PRESCHOOLERS



## PARENT MEETING



# IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING at HOME



- When teaching math to preschoolers, there are several points to keep in mind. Each child learns and develops at their own pace. Some students will catch on to a skill quickly, while others need repeated practice.
  - Because of this, it is important for students to be actively involved with learning at school AND at home.
- Students need to build their knowledge like a pyramid. For example, a child needs to have a solid understanding of one-to-one correspondence before moving on to counting objects.
- Repetition is important when teaching preschool math. Learners who are exposed to concepts over and over have a more concrete understanding because they've had time to dig deeper into the skill.
  - This is another reason it is imperative to involve your child in math at home, as well as school. The more they see and do it, the easier it becomes.
- Students should have opportunities to work alone, with partners (siblings, friends, or parents) and in groups to maximize learning.
- The focus should always be the learning *process*, not just the product that is created.

# MATH Learning activities



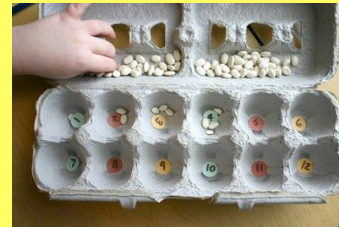
- Bead Necklace: (Patterning)

Give children a shoestring tied into a knot at one end. Have a large supply of wooden beads (use big ones and supervise carefully with younger children who may put them into their mouths). Show them how to make a pattern like red, blue, red, blue and then have them try to create their own.



- Egg Carton Counting: (Counting)

In an empty egg carton, write numbers in the bottom of each of the 12 sections. Have children place the correct number of beans in each section.



- Measure Me: (Measuring)

Put children in groups of 2. Give each pair a ball of yarn and a pair of safety scissors. Show them how to measure a body part with yarn and then cut the length with the scissors. Allow them to measure various parts like legs, arms, noses, fingers, etc. with their partners. When finished, discuss the differences in lengths.

# MATH Learning activities



- Setting The Table: (One-to-One Correspondence)

Have a variety of paper and plastic eating utensils available for this activity - plates, cups, napkins, tableware, etc. Place several stuffed animals/dolls sitting around a table. Have students practice putting one plate, one cup, one napkin, etc. for each guest at the table. When done, have a pretend tea party!



- Button Sorting: (Sorting)

Give children a large container of buttons (supervise carefully if young and still put things in their mouths). Also provide many empty containers like margarine tubs. Allow children to sort the buttons according to whatever attributes they would like to explore - size, colors, number of holes, etc.



- Yarn Numbers: (Making Numerals)

Cut a 6 inch length of yarn for each child. As a group, practice making each number by shaping the yarn. Allow children to work together in partners if more than one piece of yarn is needed to create the number (like for the number 4).



# MATH LEARNING activities



- Count food items at snack time (e.g., 5 crackers, 20 raisins, 10 baby carrots).
- Use a calendar to count down the days to a birthday or special holiday. Help your child see the connection between a numeral like "5," the word "five," and five days on the calendar.
- Practice simple addition and subtraction using small toys and blocks.
- Play simple board games where your child moves a game piece from one position to the next.



# MATH Learning activities



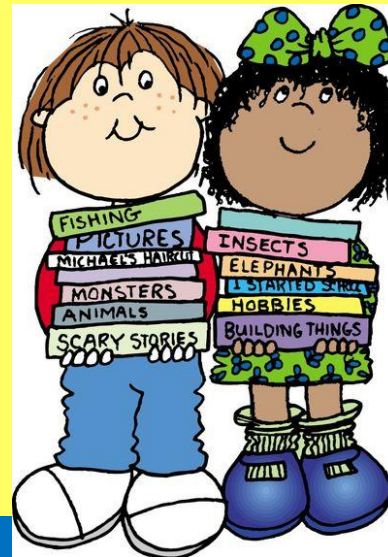
- Have your child name the shapes of cookie cutters or blocks.
- Arrange cookie cutters in patterns on a cookie sheet or placemat. A simple pattern might be: star-circle-star-circle.
- Let your child help you measure ingredients for a simple recipe - preferably a favorite!
- Measure your child's height every month or so, showing how you use a yardstick or tape measure. Mark his or her height on a "growth chart" or a mark on a door frame. Do the same with any siblings.
- Help your child compare his or her own height to previous months and also to his or her siblings' heights.



# MATH LEARNING activities



- Find math concepts in children's books.
  - Count how many ducks are on this page.
  - What shape is the swimming pool in this picture?
  - How many bears are on the right side of the page? How many are on the left?  
the left?
  - Can you find a pattern in the picture?



# using YOUR new Math Kit!



- Pattern blocks
  - Pattern block mats
  - Create patterns
  - Sort by color
  - Sort by shape
  - Use the shapes to create pictures
  - <http://www.confessionsofahomeschooler.com/blog/2012/03/preschool-pattern-block-activities.html>





# using YOUR new Math Kit!



- Play money
  - Talk about why you use money.
  - Children toss a cup of pennies onto a mat and count the heads and tails.
  - Play candy/toy store. Give your child some coins and put prices on various candy/toys. They have to give you the right amount of coins in order to have what they want.
  - Make patterns or sort the money.
  - Talk about the names and worth of each coin.



# using YOUR new Math Kit!



- Color tiles

- Sort by color
- Make patterns
- Roll a die... count out that many tiles
- Measure things throughout your house using the tiles.
- Use the tiles to build letters, numbers and shapes.
- Drop some tiles on the floor and have your child count how many dropped.

