



Preschool Math\Number Tip Sheet

Math and number materials should be in all areas of the classroom (i.e. clock in dramatic play, number puzzle in fine motor). The materials should be accessible to children as part of the interest centers for free choice daily.

Math should be incorporated into daily events (i.e. doing a head count out loud while lining up outside, assisting the children with one to one correspondence while setting the table, naming rectangular and round tables, when saying where to put the plates and cups for lunch, counting to 20 while washing hands, using measuring cups to serve portion sizes at meals).

Staff should use math talk to engage children in math conversations as they play (i.e. talking about patterns while the children play with blocks, calling attention to the numbers on a play phone, using measuring cups to water a plant, counting how many tea cups are needed for dolls while having a tea party, or talk about how to measure feet in a play shoe store set up in Dramatic Play).



During calendar time children learn vocabulary (month, year, weekend), sequencing (yesterday, today, tomorrow), and patterning (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday...).

Additionally, as children attend to the visual calendar they learn number recognition and one-to-one correspondence.

Materials representing these **categories** are required:

Counting/comparing quantities - unifix cubes with number trays, small objects to count, games that require children to figure out more or less, chart and graph activities, dominoes, playing cards, games with dice, pegboards with numbers printed, puzzles, beads with bead patterns.

Measuring/Comparing sizes and parts of whole (fractions) - measuring cups and spoons *with materials to measure*, balance scale *with things to weigh*, rulers, yardsticks, tape measures, thermometers, height chart *regularly used to measure children's growth*, game with parts to divide and put back together to make the whole (fractions), puzzles with geometric shapes that must be matched, games where halves are matched to the whole, shape matching games.

Familiarity with shapes - shape sorters, puzzles with geometric shapes, unit blocks with image/outlines on shelves for easy clean up, geoboards, attribute blocks, magnetic shapes, and shape stencils.

Math and Number Language

Examples of math vocabulary words

- sequence
- pattern
- add
- subtract
- cylinder
- sphere
- measure

Examples of open-ended questions

- How do you know if one more person can play here?
- How many napkins will we need for lunch?
- How many days until we go on our field trip?
- How many blocks are in your tower?