



## HELLO PARENTS,

Math is everywhere! Mathematics plays a major role in a child's development and helps children make sense of the world around them. Children between the ages of one to five years old are beginning to explore patterns, shapes, compare sizes and count objects. Math is evident in pretend play, outdoor play, literacy, and science. Engaging in math through play can encourage children to explore number combinations, or understand value. Math games and activities also encourage solving problems, questioning, observing, reflecting and reaching conclusions. In this newsletter, you will find fun games and activities that will deepen the children's understanding of math.

## ACTIVITIES

### INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

#### PATTY-CAKE

##### DIRECTIONS:

This is a hand-clapping game where you and your child alternate between a normal individual clap with 2-handed claps. This simple sequence of clapping teaches your child about the mathematical concept called patterns. It is the first step to understanding that the world works in logical and predictable ways.

Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker's man.  
Bake me a cake as fast as you can.  
Roll it, and pat it, and mark it with a "B"  
Put it in the oven for baby and me!

[Click here](#) to see how to play Patty-cake.  
[Click here](#) for more activities.

### TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

#### HOW MANY CAN YOU RESCUE?

##### MATERIALS:

- 10 ping pong balls
- Big container
- Tape
- Serving spoon

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Put the 10 ping-pong balls inside of the container.
- Put tape across the container making a web.
- Give your child the serving spoon and encourage them to scoop and count how many balls they take out.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

### PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

#### WALK AND COUNT

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Take a walk with your child. You can walk in your neighbourhood, in a park, or simply in various rooms in your house. As you walk, ask them to do different actions, such as:
  - o Take two big steps and three small steps.
  - o Take three small steps, jump once, and then take three big steps.
  - o Take one small step, and then spin twice.
  - o Let them jump four times and then spin three times.
  - o Let them take three big steps forward and two big steps back.
- Count aloud each type of action the child does.
- Reverse roles and ask your child to suggest actions for you to do while you walk.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

### JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

#### ROLL AND STACK

##### MATERIALS:

- Dice
- Blocks or Legos
- Table (optional)

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Scatter the blocks or Legos on the table between you and your child.
- Take turns with your child rolling the dice.
- After rolling the dice, count the number out on the blocks or Legos and stack them into a tower.
- When all the blocks or Legos on the table are gone the player with the tallest tower wins!

[Click here](#) for more activities.

### SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

#### DO A NUMBER DANCE

##### MATERIALS:

- Big paper
- Markers
- Tape
- Music (YouTube, radio, CD)

##### DIRECTIONS:

- With the markers, write numbers 0 to 9 on the big paper.
- Tape the big paper on the floor.
- One player asks a math equation.
- Take some time to figure out the answer.
- Once you have the answer, turn the music on and jump and dance on to the correct answer using the number taped to the floor.
- For example, what is  $2 \times 4$ ? The correct answer is 8, you must jump or dance on the number 8 while the music is playing.
- If the answer has double digits, you must jump on the first number and then on to the next.

[Click here](#) for more math activities using deck of cards.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

#### A TIP FOR TODAY

- Help your child use math through daily interactions.
- During a car ride, encourage your child to count how many cars they can see.
- Play games that involve math, like chess, Monopoly, counting objects, or stacking blocks.
- Read books that incorporate math.

