





Understanding and Supporting Your Child’s Math Development

Families and caregivers play an important role in helping children grow as math learners. This document shares some tips for supporting your child’s math learning at home.



Math Milestones: What Children Learn in Math Each Year

This table lists some key math skills that children learn in four main areas: *number sense*, *operations and problem solving*, *measurement and data*, and *geometry*. The table shows how these skills grow from year to year. When children build and strengthen these skills early, they gain a strong foundation for success in middle school, high school, and beyond.

	Preschool	Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade
 Number Sense The ability to understand numbers and how they relate to each other	Count everyday objects up to 10 and beyond	Recognize numbers 0–20	Count to 120	Understand how numbers are made using hundreds, tens, and ones	Use multiplication to group things evenly and count them faster
 Operations and Problem Solving The ability to solve math problems and understand patterns	Add and take away small amounts using real objects	Add and subtract up to 10	Add and subtract up to 20	Add and subtract up to 100	Multiply and divide up to 100
 Measurement and Data The ability to measure, compare, and analyze data	Compare sizes, lengths, and weights using words like “bigger” and “smaller”	Describe and sort objects	Tell time to the hour and half hour	Use money to count, compare, and make simple purchases	Measure time, liquid volume, and mass
 Geometry The ability to recognize and describe shapes and how they fit together	Identify and name basic shapes like circles, squares, and triangles	Name shapes and talk about what makes them different	Build and draw shapes	Compare shapes and describe their sides and corners	Explore symmetry and patterns in shapes

Questions to Ask Your Child's Teacher

You can work with your child's teacher to learn practical ways to support math development throughout the year.



Your Child's Math Progress

1. Math looks different from when I was in school. What is my child learning now? Can you show me an example?
2. Is my child performing at grade level in math?
 - If not, what supports does the school provide?
 - If they're performing above grade level, what programs are available to challenge my child?
3. What extra support is available if my child needs help with math?
4. Can you tell me more about the school or district tests that my child will take during the year? What do these test scores mean for my child?



Ways to Support Your Child

1. What can I do at home to help my child with math?
2. Are there games, activities, online resources, or apps that we can use at home to help with math skills?
3. How can I help my child feel confident and positive about math?
4. What questions can I ask my child to help them understand math?
5. How can I tell if my child understands the math they are learning?
6. How can I help with homework without giving the answers?
7. How can I help my child get ready for math tests?

Suggestions for Families

These are some helpful ways to support your child's math development.



Create Math Routines

- Use math every day by counting objects, comparing sizes, talking about shapes, and finding patterns. Look for opportunities during activities like cooking, shopping, or riding in the car.
- Pick a regular time and place at home or on the go so math practice becomes a simple part of your routine.



Play Math Games

- Have fun with math by playing games with cards, dominoes, dice, and everyday objects.
- Make patterns, such as sorting socks by color (white-blue-white-blue).
- Ask your child, "Show me how you did that," so they can practice talking about how they solve problems.



Make Math Connections

- Help your child see that math is everywhere by noticing it in nature, art, and everyday life.
- Point out numbers, shapes, and patterns – ask questions like, "How many do you see?" or "Can you draw that?"



Seek Out Resources

- Look for family-friendly resources in your community, such as science or children's museums.
- Talk about math together by using learning websites, TV shows like shows on PBS Kids or Scholastic, or children's books.
- Use everyday items at home (like toothpicks, paper clips, beans, or cards) to count, measure, make groups, and learn about shapes.



Provide Encouragement

- Praise your child for trying and sharing their ideas, especially when they try something for the first time.
- When they make a mistake, remind them that mistakes help us learn.
- Ask guiding questions like, "Can you show me what you mean?"

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WestEd's Family Engagement Services team helps educators and families work together to improve children's learning.