

Tip Sheets

Numeracy

Numeracy is an important part of learning and books, songs, nursery rhymes, and every day activities are great ways to introduce and support numeracy with children.

Numeracy includes:

- the ability to understand and work with numbers
- developing a sense of what numbers mean—the word one and the number 1 are the same and represent one object
- understanding the vocabulary of numeracy (more, less, bigger, smaller, groups, etc.)
- sorting by colour, size, type or shape
- problem solving

Activities to do at home

- Measure ingredients for a recipe
- Sort the laundry into colours, match socks or count each piece of clothing
- Make a pattern with food at snack-time
- Talk about the time—bedtime, bath-time, snack-time
- Use words that are important in numeracy, like “this **big** shelf holds **more than** that **small** shelf”
- Go on a scavenger hunt and find 1 stuffed animal; 2 crayons; 3 spoons...

Activities to do outside:

- Count how many trees or plants you see
- Talk about the shapes of signs, houses, vehicles or something else
- Play “I Spy” with colours—I spy something yellow
- Figure out what part of the playground is the biggest and what part is the smallest
- Make a pattern with the rocks, sticks, and leaves from the ground

Activities in your community:

- **While travelling around:**
 - Count how many times the vehicle stops
 - Point out vehicles that are the same (cars, trucks, buses) or the same colour
 - Watch the pattern of the lights—what comes after red?
- **At the store:**
 - Count how many items you have
 - Weigh the fruits or vegetables
 - Point out and say the prices of the items on the shelf



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Family Literacy Tip Sheets

- **At appointments:**
 - Bring a deck of cards – play a game, sort them, match colours, shapes, or numbers
 - Count the number of chairs in the waiting room
 - Find patterns around the office – look at things like the floor, ceiling, or chairs

Books, songs, and nursery rhymes:

- Are a great way to introduce numeracy to children
- When there are things to count or numbers are a part of the story or song, take the opportunity to bring numeracy to life!

Numeracy books to share with your children:

1, 2, 3 Peas. Keith Baker
1, 2, 3, to the Zoo. Eric Carle
A Frog in the Bog. Karma Wilson
Actual Size. Steve Jenkins
Bear Counts. Karma Wilson
Big Sarah's Little Boots. Paulette Bourgeois
Carry Me Mama. Monica Devine
Chicka Chicka 1,2,3. Bill Martin Jr.
Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed. Eileen Christelow
I am Small. Emma Dodd
I Spy Book Series. Jean Marzollo
Inch by Inch. Leo Lionni
Leo's Tree. Debora Pearson
Lots of Dots. Craig Frazier
My Little Sister Ate One Hare. Bill Grossman
Nightgown Countdown. Frank B. Edwards (others in the series)
One Fish Two Fish. Dr. Seuss
One Moose, Twenty Mice. Clare Beaton
Pete the Cat and his Four Groovy Buttons. Eric Litwin
Ship Shapes. Stella Blackstone
Ten Black Dots. Donald Crews
Ten Little Caterpillars. Bill Martin Jr.
The Greedy Triangle. Marilyn Burns
The Hungry Caterpillar. Eric Carle
Who Took the Cookies from the Cookie Jar? Bonnie Lass
Zero. Kathryn Otoshi (others in the series)



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