

# Laundry Fun

Sort \* Organize \* Match \* Estimate

Sort by **C**olor and **S**ize and **S**hape (Socks and Shirts)

Count how many socks or How many pairs

Estimate How many socks long are you

Guess Make piles of shirts and pants – Guess how many clothes are in each pile

## Matching Socks

What you will need:

4-6 pairs of different – styled socks (less for younger children and more for older)

1. Line up one of each pair of socks
2. Put the others in a pile
3. Ask your child to match each sock by laying it on top of its counterpart
4. OR for older children, just put all the sock in a heap and let your child sort them

You can also match socks by color, by length or by the shapes found on the socks

# GAMES



**Scrambled Eggs** - To prep the activity, simply cut out ovals out of paper. Draw a line in the middle of the egg, dividing the eggs in half. Color each half of the oval with a color that matches the egg. (If you don't have plastic eggs, cut out an extra set of ovals, color them and cut them in half.)

To play, she simply grabbed a card and *used the plastic eggs to build a match*. Meanwhile, for older children who need more of a challenge, stretch the activity by asking them to brainstorm all of the different color combinations that could be made with the tops

and bottoms of the eggs.

From: *The Steam Laboratory*

**Patterns:** These patterning activities help kids to copy, continue and create patterns. They are also great for developing fine motor skills.

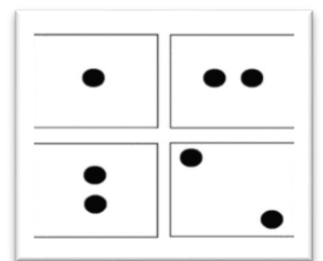


To prep the activity, you can draw a pattern on a piece of paper or use stickers.

You can also use colored pom poms or bead for older children. (You Make your own eggs out of paper if you don't have plastic eggs.)

From: Teachers Pay Teachers and Planning Play time

**Subtilizing Dot Game:** Turn a card and say the number, whoever has a larger number takes both cards. If the number is the same then flip another card, the child with the larger number takes all four cards. Children are working on their subtilizing skills. The ability to subtilize is an important part of developing a strong mathematical foundation and understanding of numbers



# MATH IN THE KITCHEN

At the end of a long day, when you're thinking about getting dinner ready and getting everybody off to various appointments and lessons, creating mathematical moments is probably the farthest thing from your mind.

However, having your child help you in the kitchen not only offers the benefit of an extra pair of hands but also involves math. From measuring and sequencing to estimation and multiplication, the kitchen is a real-life school for kids of all ages.

## **1. Setting the Table**

- a. Ask your child HOW MANY plates they will need.
- b. Hand them too many plates or not enough. Have them tell you how many more they will need or how many plates they need to give you back.
- c. Show them that the dinner plate is in the MIDDLE, directly in FRONT of you
- d. The drinking cup is placed on the upper RIGHT side of the plate
- e. The fork is on the LEFT side of the dinner plate
- f. The spoon and the knife (if age appropriate) is on the RIGHT side of the dinner plate
- g. The napkin is UNDER the fork

## **2. Have your child fill their water cup**

- a. Ask your child to fill the cup half full or a quarter full

## **3. Measure and Count ingredients when cooking - using measuring cups**

# TODDLER TIME: POTS & PANS "PUZZLES"



Kids rather play with household items or demand my *constant, undivided* attention. That's we love this activity that involves stuff we already have...you aren't buying something that will be buried in a toy-box not to be touched for months on end, inevitably ending up in the "Goodwill" pile!

All you need for this activity are pots and pans with lids. Let your child try to place the lids on the correct container. This acts as a large "puzzle" for little ones since most pot lids have handles that are easy to grab. It's a great cognitive development activity because it encourages your child to figure out which lid belongs to which pot based on various attributes while also being a great motor activity!

- 1. Start off with the correct tops on each pot.**
- 2. Let your child explore taking them off and putting them back on.**
- 3. Try to let him/her explore on her own rather than jumping in to "correct" if a lid is placed on the wrong pot.**

*From the blog: I can teach my child*



*Patterns\* Counting\* Adding \* Estimating*

1. Have children count how many of each fruits or/and vegetables that you purchased
2. Sort the fruits/vegetables by color. Encourage children to find other objects in the room that are the same color as the fruit or vegetable.
3. Sort the fruit/vegetables by size. Larger to smaller and smaller to Larger.
4. Play a fun guessing game by setting out three or four food items in a row. Give your child clues regarding the characteristics of one fruit or vegetable and see if they can guess which object you are describing. Involve attributes, such as color, size, whether the food has seeds, where the food grows, and so on.
5. Where do foods come from? Choose a food and talk about where it grows: Does it grow on a tree? Does it grow underground? How about above the ground?
6. Play “What’s Missing?” to develop thinking and memory skills. Place four or five foods in a line. Have your child turn away while you remove one of the foods. When your child turns around, have them determine which food is missing.

## Learning with Lids



1. **Critical Thinking Skills and Decision-Making** - Sort Lids by color
2. **Comparing and Contrasting** – Have your child describe what kind of container the lid might belong on. BIG container or LITTLE container. Trace the lids on a piece of paper and have the children match the lids.
3. **Numerical Thinking** – Count the lids, do you have any multiple lids, can you stack them. How high can you stack the lids?

# MUFFIN TIN IDEAS

**Memory Game** -To play this game, use a muffin tin with at least twelve compartments. For younger kids you could use a 6 cup tin (with only 3 pairs to find), for older kids, a 24 cup tin (with 12 pairs to find). Of course, differentiate as needed for your kids, regardless of their age.



Choose twelve small objects, (if you are playing with a full tin) 2 of each to form pairs. I have used buttons here, but mini erasers, pompoms, small snacks or crackers, even different colored beans or small rocks could work.

Cover it up by using cupcake liners (silicone ones are great and can be reused) if you have them, or just paper scraps could work too if they can cover the space.

Take turns picking up two liners to reveal what is underneath. If they are a matching pair, take them out and keep them aside. If not, close it up again, remember where you have seen them, and try again with your next turn.

Like a traditional memory game, the winner will be the one with the most pairs.

*From: Kindergarten Connection*

**Sorting and/or Counting-** Use cupcake liners and placed a number sticker within each liner or use a Pen. If your toddler is younger, can color the liner and have your child sort items based on color. The result was an exciting, math learning activity.

There are so many other options to use as counters besides Fruit Loops:

- |               |               |                    |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| -Marbles      | -Small rocks  | -Pom poms          |
| -Beads        | -Cotton balls | -Cheerios          |
| -Jelly Beans  | -Grapes       | -Goldfish crackers |
| -Paper clips  |               | -Linking cubes     |
| -Blueberries  |               | -Play-doh balls    |
| -Jingle Bells |               | -Pretzels          |

*From: For the Love of Learning*



Additional information from the “**National Association for the Education of Young Children**”

## Support Math with Materials in Your Home

[HomeOur Work](#) / [For Families](#) / [Articles for Families on Math](#) / Support Math with Materials in Your Home

By: Carrie Cutler

Recent research shows that children who are ready to learn math are likely to do better in school. Here are six activities that support your child's math readiness - with simple materials you may have at home.

**1. Shoelace Shapes:** Supports learning about geometry and exploring shapes. Children learn words used in math and begin to notice the features of different shapes as they outline the shapes with string.

**Materials:** Paper & markers, 20-inch shoelace or string

**Instructions:** Draw a large shape on a sheet of paper. It can be a geometric shape such as a triangle or oval or an irregular shape like a squiggly circle. Demonstrate for your child how to place the lace or string along the shape's outline. Then, encourage your child to do the same. Talk about curvy and straight lines. Draw a new shape and invite your child to do the activity again. Discuss how the shapes are similar and how they are different.

**2. Circles and Cans:** Supports learning about geometry and matching similar shapes.

**Materials:** Paper & markers, food cans of different sizes

**Instructions:** Take out a few cans of food of different sizes from the cupboard. Talk about the shape of the whole can (they are cylinders) and the shape of the top and bottom of the cans (circles). Together with your child, trace each can on a piece of paper. Shuffle the papers and help your child match the cans to the traced circles.

**3. Snowball Hunt:** Supports counting. Learning to count in order (1, 2, 3, and so on) is a basic math skill.



**Materials:** 12 cotton balls, 1 egg carton

**Instructions:** Number the cups of the egg carton from 1 to 12. Hide cotton ball “snowballs” around the room. Give your child the empty numbered egg carton. Ask your child to look for the hidden “snowballs” and fill the egg carton cups in order from 1 to 12. Then let your child hide the snowballs for you to find.

**4. Muffin Tin Counting:** Supports learning to: count, make sets, and use one-to-one correspondence. To find the total number of items in a set, your child must recognize that the last number in the counting sequence tells “how many.” This is called cardinality.

**Materials:** Muffin pan, paper liners, and some small objects like buttons, pebbles, or acorns

**Instructions:** With your child, number the paper liners from 1 to 12. Place each liner in a muffin cup while counting out loud, “1, 2, 3 . . . 12”). Ask your child to place in the cup as many buttons as needed to match the number of the cup.

**5. Nesting Instinct:** Supports learning about measurement and putting items in order by size seriation. When children order objects by size, they build their comparison skills and use math words such as larger and smaller.

**Materials:** Empty food boxes such as cereal, macaroni, or rice

**Instructions:** Have your child experiment to find out which boxes fit inside one another. Model and encourage the use of correct measurement vocabulary such as longer, shorter, wide, narrow, taller, and shorter. Ask questions like: Can that one (pointing to the smaller one) fit inside that one (pointing to the bigger one)? How do you know?

**6. Shoe Comparisons:** Supports learning about measurement and comparing the lengths of items. Comparing how long things are helps prepare children understand why we use standard units of measurement.

**Materials:** Child’s shoe

**Instructions:** Have your child use the shoe as a measurement tool. Say, “Can you find four things in the room that are shorter than your shoe?” Use math vocabulary such as measure, compare, length, shorter, and longer to



discuss the objects your child finds. Next, ask your child to find four objects that are longer than the shoe.

These activities encourage children to build strong foundations in early childhood mathematics. With a little creativity, simple household items can become powerful tools for learning math. Open your kitchen cupboards and open your child's mind to thinking and learning about

<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/support-math-materials-your-home>

## Math at Home Toolkit

[HomeOur Work](#) / [For Families](#) / [Articles for Families on Math](#) / Math at Home Toolkit

# Use these resources to encourage your child's math learning at home!

### *Resources on Math Play and Learning*

#### Math and Literacy - The Perfect Pair

Looking for engaging ways to weave math into the day? You might find just what you're looking for in your home or local library. Many children's books are perfect for introducing and reinforcing math concepts.

#### Math in the Bath! Y

Bath time is perfect for exploring math with your young child! Not only do you have each other's full attention, but the learning can be hands on, playful, and messy.

#### 10 Things to Know About Math

Math knowledge is useful for all of us—from children to adults—in all aspects of our lives. When parents and teachers get excited about math, then children get excited about math.

#### Everyday Shapes

You can expand your children's learning environment by helping them identify, create, name, and take apart shapes during your regular routines.

## Las formas geométricas de todos los días

Las familias pueden ayudar a sus hijos a identificar, crear, nombrar y distinguir formas durante sus rutinas, actividades y conversaciones habituales en casa.

## Home Sorting Ideas

Early experiences in sorting and classifying help young children notice how things are alike and different. They will apply this understanding when learning math skills in the primary grades. Here are some ways families can sort and classify at home.

## Helping Your Child See and Show Mathematical Ideas

Noticing when your child brings mathematical words and ideas into conversation or play can be a jumping-off point for helping him or her get a head start on understanding math.

## Ideas para clasificar en la casa

Las experiencias tempranas de agrupar y clasificar ayudan a los niños pequeños a observar en qué se parecen y en qué se diferencian las cosas. Esta comprensión les servirá cuando estén aprendiendo técnicas matemáticas en la escuela primaria. Aquí les proponemos algunas formas de realizar esas actividades en su casa.

## 5 Ways to Build Math into Your Child's Day

Tips for how to keep things fun as you encourage your child to explore math.

## Support Math with Materials in Your Home

Six fun and simple activities to support your child's math readiness.

## Support Math Readiness Through Music

Even the youngest of children can respond to music and the mathematical principles behind it. Here are three musical elements that relate to math and activity ideas to try at home.

## Support Math Readiness Through Math Talk

The more parents talk with their child about math at home, the more a child's mind is stimulated to think about math. Here are five ways to use math talk with your child.

## Math Talk with Infants and Toddlers

Children develop math concepts and skills very early in life. How we talk with

infants and toddlers about math ideas like more, empty, and full—matters.

### Preschoolers are Natural Mathematicians

Preschoolers aren't yet ready to memorize multiplication tables, but that doesn't mean they cannot learn and explore math concepts. Try these ideas at home to help your preschooler explore math.

---

## *Printable Math Games in English and Spanish*

Fun math games to enhance young children's mathematics learning and persistence from the Education Development Center (EDC).

Make a printable half fold mini-book! Each math activity has two pages: Print each page single sided. Place the blank side of the two pages together. Fold in half to complete your mini-book.

- Can You Find?
- I Spy: Shapes
- Looking for Shapes
- Patterns
- Where Is Bear?

For more content about early math visit the EDC website at <https://www.ym.edc.org>.

<https://www.naeyc.org/math-at-home>

## Message in a Backpack™ Fun, Easy Ways to Play with Math at Home

[HomeResources](#) / [Publications](#) / [Teaching Young Children](#) / [December/January 2019](#) / Message in a Backpack™ Fun, Easy Ways to Play with Math at Home

JESSICA MERCER YOUNG, KRISTEN E. REED

**1. Sing songs and chant!** Many songs, chants, and verses have patterns. Learning a song's pattern helps children remember the song. Patterns *repeat in a predictable way that helps children know what comes next*. Songs and

chants, like “Five Green and Speckled Frogs,” “Five Little Monkeys,” “Hokey Pokey,” and “Ten Little Fingers,” teach number order—children count up or down from a number. They also teach spatial words, like *on*, *in*, *out*, and *around*.

**2. Read picture books.** Visit your local library and check out great picture books about counting, numbers, patterns, measurement, shapes, and engineering. For ideas, take a look at the book lists at [ym.edc.org/math-books/published-books](http://ym.edc.org/math-books/published-books) and [earlymath.erikson.edu/series/book-ideas](http://earlymath.erikson.edu/series/book-ideas).

**3. Use your fingers.** When children count on their fingers, they are strengthening their number knowledge and their ability to visualize numbers in their minds. You and your child can play these two games with fingers, toys, and other objects—or even people!

**How Many Do You See?** Have your child count your fingers and see how many different ways you can “show 5” on two hands. Then, you can show numbers up to 10. Eventually, add your child’s hands and go up to 20.

**How Many Are Hiding?** Start with your whole hand and “hide” some fingers. Ask children, “How many fingers are hiding?”

**4. Do puzzles.** Playing with puzzles helps children to think about spatial relationships, identify shapes, look for patterns, and find solutions. Start with easy jigsaw puzzles and add more challenging ones when your child is ready. You can even make your own puzzles by drawing a picture and cutting it into two, three, four, or more pieces!

**5. Build together.** Building with materials like blocks, cardboard boxes, Legos, K’nex, Magna-Tiles, or Lincoln Logs helps children develop strong spatial skills.

**6. Try origami.** The creations children make by folding paper help them develop strong spatial skills as well as logical and sequential thinking. In addition to being art, origami can be found in packaging all around us—pizza boxes, paper bags, envelopes, and take-out containers. Folding (and unfolding) paper helps children think in two and three dimensions and see how the sequence of steps affects the final design.



**7. Play board games.** While playing games like Candy Land, Chutes and Ladders, HiHo Cherry-O, and Sorry, children move a game piece one space at a time while counting the number of spaces (an important math skill). Your child will practice recognizing the numbers of dots showing on the die without counting them. She'll also develop perseverance, engage in problem solving, and learn from mistakes.

**8. Play card games.** Games like Memory, Go Fish, War, Slap Jack, Crazy Eights, Uno, and Sleeping Queens give children practice in recognizing and comparing numbers. They also help children learn to pay attention to things like shape, number, and color.

---

## Parent Tips



- Mistakes are OK! Making mistakes is a part of learning new things. When your child makes a mistake, ask questions like, "What happened?," "What would you do differently next time?," to help him see it, and talk about what he can learn from the experience.
- Children tend to mimic parents' attitudes about math. As you play these games, have fun! If you are having fun, they will too! Working through a challenge is also what makes games enjoyable. It's no fun to play a game that's too easy. If things get tough, you can remind children that sometimes math makes us think hard, but that challenges are good for our brains.