

Fun with Math!: 24-36 months

Talking about math concepts will help your child:

- Recognize and name a few numbers
- Learn about quantity and how to compare
- Explore measuring with tools

Ideas to try with your child:

- Use number concepts daily. Look at number books, practice counting, cut food into sections, and talk about what you are doing; “I’m cutting the brownies into squares.” “You have half of a sandwich.” “We are sharing the cookie by breaking it into two pieces.”
- Talk about quantities such as *all*, *some*, and *none*: “Let’s pick up all the blue cars.” “You ate most of your carrots and some of your peas.” “Let me see you eat more.” “You drank all of your milk; there is none left.”
- Use tools such as measuring cups or spoons in tubs of uncooked rice or sand. Offer your child math vocabulary as she plays: more/less, empty/full, or heavy/light.

If your child is struggling:

- Play with your child and describe daily what you are doing in routines with numbers and measuring: “I’m putting four plates on the table for all of us.” “Let’s count how many blocks we need to make a tower as tall as you.” “I’m measuring 1 cup of flour to make some cookies.”

Going further:

- Provide materials of different shapes, colors and sizes and ask your child to arrange from smallest to largest or shortest to longest, or sort by colors.
- Chart and describe your child’s height and weight. “You are taller than your sister. You are heavier than you used to be.” Printable growth charts can be found online: <http://www.sesamestreet.org/parents/topicsandactivities/printables> or http://www.sparklebox.co.uk/maths/shape-space-measures/measuring-and-comparing/height-charts.html#.U8_9xCewVgF

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children’s best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children ages 24-36 months** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: “Use numerical concepts in everyday routines” Learning About My World, Ages 16-36 months, pg. 50