

# Math

Teachers and families: the early childhood and primary school curricula focus on helping children learn math through hands-on experiences.

You can help young children to learn math while playing, or while watching educational shows like *Sesame Street* together.



## **Watch together**

While you're watching *Sesame Street* or other educational content together build on what children are noticing.

Ask questions or make connections with what they're learning at school or what they notice around them. Then, think of fun ways to extend these activities and connections.

### **Connect and extend through songs**

- You can sing a math song you hear together then extend the song with a new verse. For example, keep counting higher for a counting song.

### **Shapes example**

- After watching an episode on shapes, for example, go on a shape hunt together.
- Then, point out and name the shapes with infants and toddlers.
- Encourage pre-school and primary school children to draw or trace the shapes they find or make designs with shape cutouts.



## **Play and learn together**

While playing together, or even standing in a line, there are lots of ways to include math.

- Count people in a line.
- Compare the clothes people around you are wearing.
- Practise sorting shoes by colour, size and type.

### **Point out the numbers you see around you:**

- For children in primary school, you can help them add or subtract the numbers they see or compare numbers to find the largest.
- Pre-school children can use their fingers to show you the amount.

### **Play hopscotch outside or tape numbers down:**

- Change the numbers to help children identify more numbers.
- For primary school children, ask questions like: "find the number that is  $3+2$ " or "jump to a number that is less than 6".



## Play math games together

### Use playing cards to play games like matching, sorting or “memory”:

- All children can match the numbers, shapes or colours.
- Infants and toddlers can become familiar with the numbers and shapes as they drop them into a box.
- Pre-school children can practise one-to-one correspondence by placing small things like stones on top of each shape they see, then count them.
- Primary school children can use playing cards to practise adding, subtracting, and comparing quantities. They can even pull cards randomly and tally or graph how often they pull specific numbers.

### Use things around you:

- Use everyday objects like leaves, stones, crayons, or spoons to sort, count, make groups, and match similar items.



## Talk together

While you're playing and talking together, use math language as you ask questions like:

- How can we find out how many we have?
- Do we have more june plums or more limes? How do you know?
- How can we sort these things or put them in different groups? How are they alike or different?



## Links to find out more together

### Local resources

- ✓ [The Ministry of Education and Youth's Game-Based & Interactive Learning Activities for Early Years](#)
- ✓ [Curricular resources](#) like the Resource Book and curriculum guides from the Early Childhood Commission
- ✓ Digital library Book Fusion has free books <https://www.bookfusion.com/libraries/MOEYI>
- ✓ [Reach Up and Learn Parent Manual: Activities for Children Up to Age 3 Years](#)

### Other resources

- ✓ Math activities for all ages at [www.nrich.maths.org](http://www.nrich.maths.org)



## Links to Sesame Street content

### Songs on YouTube you can sing together:

- ✓ [“Sesame Street: 5 Little Monkeys with Cookie Monster”](#)
- ✓ [“Sesame Street: Check That Shape \(with Nick Jonas\)”](#)

### Visit [Sesame Workshop](#)

for many more related activities, printables, and video based suggestions like [“Math is Everywhere”](#), [“Math,”](#) [“Playing with Numbers”](#) and to play the online game [“Playing with Colors”](#).