

Young children begin kindergarten with varying degrees of knowledge in math. By the end of the year, your child must have learned some important mathematical concepts and skills such as counting whole numbers from 1-100. This ability to count begins to form the foundation of skills that will be used to add and subtract small numbers and use addition and subtraction to solve basic word problems. Your child will also be learning about the shapes (e.g. squares, circles, triangles, etc.) that make up the physical world around them. Measurement will play a critical role as students begin to compare the length, weight, and height of various objects

Skills Your Child Will Be Working On

- Counting objects to tell how many there are
- Comparing two groups of objects to tell which group, if either, has more; comparing two written numbers to tell which is greater
- Adding with a sum of 10 or less; subtracting from a number 10 or less; and solving addition and subtraction word problems
- Acting out addition and subtraction word problems and drawing diagrams to represent them
- Adding and subtracting very small numbers quickly and accurately (e.g., $3 + 1$)
- Being able to name various different shapes such as circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles.
- Correctly naming shapes regardless of orientation or size (e.g., a square oriented as a “diamond” is still a square)
- Measuring various objects and comparing to determine which object is bigger or smaller based on the measurement method. (e.g. inches, feet, pound, ounces, etc.)

Learning Activity to Use at Home

Using objects that are familiar to young children can be a good way to introduce them to differences in shapes and to classification. Make it a fun activity by making it into a game. Playing with children can provide many opportunities to engage in activities such as sorting, matching, comparing and arranging.

Activity: Shape Up

Use different snacks that are already in simple shapes like circles, squares, triangles, etc. and fill up a bowl.

Fill up a bowl with these snacks. Take one out and begin to describe it, for example. “Look, this one’s round so it is a circle.” This one has three sides so it is a triangle. This one has four sides... do they look to be the same size on all four of the sides? If the answer is yes, it must be a square. If two sides are longer, then we have a rectangle. Now sort the shapes together by saying, “You get to eat the circles and I will eat the squares.”

Another way is to make sandwiches and cut the bread into different shapes each day. One day might be circle day with the sandwich being cut into a circle and the snacks having the same shape.

Get your child involved in finding shapes around them by looking at their room, around the house, or in a store. You can make it a game by seeing who can find the most number of a specific shape. The important thing is to have fun playing and learning with your child.

Teacher and Parent Conferencing - Topics for ongoing conversations throughout the school year with your child’s teacher

The focus in these early years should be in the development of good mathematical habits. When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In kindergarten, these include:

- Is your child progressing with the ability to count up to 100?
- Can your child solving simple addition and subtraction problems that are grade level appropriate?
- Is your child able to name various different shapes such as circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles?

Ask to see a sample of your child’s work. Ask the teacher questions such as: Is this piece of work satisfactory? How could it be better? Is my child on track? How can I help my child improve or excel in this area? If my child needs extra support or wants to learn more about a subject, are there resources to help his or her learning outside the classroom?