

Kids Count!

Easy ways to help your child practice math.

Parents are their child's first and most influential teachers. With only a little time and effort, you can help your child learn and practice basic math skills that will lead to more success in school, and in life. Here are some ideas for making math fun for your child. Remember, kids count—and so do you! Support your child's learning year-round.

Play board games, like Chutes and Ladders and Trouble.

When playing board games, have your child:

- Look at the dice and say the number without counting the dots. This helps your child be able to recognize amounts without counting. This skill is important for learning addition and subtraction.
- Move his or her marker the correct number of spaces to match the number rolled on the dice. This teaches children important concepts in counting and computation.

Play the "Hand Game."

- 1 Put some small objects in your right hand (up to 5 objects for kindergartners, and up to 10 for 1st graders).
- 2 Have your child count how many objects you have.
- 3 Ask your child to close his or her eyes. While they are closed, move some of the objects into your left hand. Put that hand behind your back.
- 4 Tell your child to open his or her eyes. Show your right hand again, and have your child count the number of objects.
- 5 Ask, "How many do I have in my other hand?"
- 6 Start with low numbers and add more items



as your child gets better at figuring out the answer. This helps them learn to see numbers in parts. It helps with addition and subtraction.

Counting.

- Count with your child forward and backwards from a variety of numbers. "Let's start counting from 23!" "Let's count backwards from 14!"
- Count your steps when you are walking together.
- Count out loud by 2s, 5s, 10s.
- Give your child tasks that involve counting: "Get us 6 forks for dinner."

