

The H-N REACH EarlyON at Home

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Learning math is an adventure into the unknown. The ideas we adults take for granted are a wild, unexplored country to our children.

Denise Gaskins

MATH AROUND THE HOUSE!

Math is important and it's important to help young children develop their mathematical thinking. Did you know that a child's math knowledge at the start of kindergarten predicts later academic achievement better than their early reading or attention skills? Learning math promotes working memory, improves attention, and increases other basic cognitive skills needed. At the EarlyON Centres, we understand and celebrate the importance of early math skills, and have found some great 'math moments' you can have at home to build a strong foundation in mathematics:

Counting everyday items: How many buttons are on your shirt? How many forks are on the table? How many slices of apple would you like to eat? Count the stairs as you go up and down - the possibilities are endless!

Sorting: Help them sort various items - sorting laundry, matching socks, putting away the silverware and setting the table. Matching and sorting are math concepts.

Reading: Take time to look at the pictures. Talk about the location of various items in the picture, using rich spatial language such as beside, over, under, close and far away.

Comparing feet sizes: Whose foot is bigger? How do you know? Measure using various items like a ruler, lego blocks, or crayons.

Retrieved from: <https://www.parents.com/kids/education/math-and-science/10-playful-math-activities/> and <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/math>





IN THE KITCHEN WITH MATH

Math is everywhere in our daily lives, especially in the kitchen. Shapes, measurements, volumes, the concept of time - these are all concepts that we encounter on the counter! When

young children become involved with baking and cooking, they are beginning to use the basics of math, and developing those math skills we mentioned earlier. Here are some

examples of how we can highlight math in our kitchens:

Shapes are everywhere when we cook and bake. Pointing out that the brownies are square, the pizza is a triangle, the cookies are round, the block of cheese is a rectangle - this all helps the child associate everyday items to shapes.

Counting the number of cookies on the rectangle cookie sheet, counting out how many teaspoons of salt or how many cups of flour goes into the bowl will allow your child to relate numbers to practical items.

Time is another element of math used in cooking and baking.

Children will begin to relate to the concept of time by how long something takes to bake (is it done yet?). You can show them using a timer and they can see how the time passes.

Perhaps your child is too young to read? Use pictures of measuring spoons and cups in the recipes to help young children count out the ingredients will help reinforce those early math skills!

Cooking and baking with children is a fun and easy way to introduce your child to early math concepts and will help build the foundation for future mathematicians - or a great chef!

1, 2, 3 Song

(sung to the tune of the Alphabet Song)

One, two, three,
four, five, six,
seven
Eight, nine, ten,
eleven and twelve
Thirteen, fourteen,
fifteen and sixteen
Seventeen,
eighteen, nineteen
and twenty.

Now I know my
one, two, three's -
next time won't
you sing with me!



Build a 3D Stuffy House

Pick your favourite stuffed animals and build a house for them using recycled items from around the house!

Use various size boxes, tubes, bottle lids, plastic bottles, paper, scissors, tape, markers, etc.

While building, use words like: stack, bigger, smaller, tall, short, corners, round, smooth, rough, measure, cut, build, sides, curvy, straight, wavy. Enjoy!



WHAT IS S.T.E.M.?

STEM is an acronym for learning about four specific subjects - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. These four subjects are intertwined in our daily lives as well as in many important jobs. STEM activities are a hands-on approach to learning and allow children the opportunities to solve problems, ask questions, explore and discover for themselves. Simple STEM activities you can do at home include: building with blocks or lego; sensory activities like goop and/or water play; building ramps for cars or balls; mixing colours when finger painting; using playdough; the list goes on! Similar ideas can be offered at home to preschoolers and toddlers quite inexpensively. Check out www.sciencebuddies.org and <http://littlebinslittlehands.com> for more ideas!



CHILDREN'S BOOKS THAT FOSTER A LOVE OF MATH

1. Chicka, Chicka, 1, 2, 3, by Bill Martin Jr.
2. Ten Black Dots by Donald Crews
3. Hippos Go Berserk! by Sandra Boynton
4. Rooster's Off to See the World by Eric Carle
5. One is a Snail, Ten is a Crab by April Pulley Sayre and Jeff Sayre
6. Inch by Inch by Leo Leonni
7. 20 Hungry Piggies by Trudy Harris
8. Counting Crocodiles by Judy Sierra
9. The Three Bears by Paul Galdone
10. Inside, Outside, Upside Down by Stan and Jan Berenstein
11. Ten in the Bed by Penny Dale
12. Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons by James Dean and Eric Litwin



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Cooking and baking in the kitchen is a great way to brush up on our math skills. Check out this recipe, and feel free to count out loud and watch the timer!

A Recipe of Fifteens

15 cherries
15 marshmallows
15 crushed digestive cookies
Shredded coconut (sweetened) to coat
Small can of condensed milk



1. Chop up the marshmallows and cherries. Add the crushed digestive cookies to the mixture in a large bowl.
2. Mix in condensed milk until mixture is just sticking together.
3. On a large sheet of tinfoil, sprinkle a layer of shredded coconut into the centre of the foil.
4. Place digestive mixture on top of coconut and make into a log shape. Coat the whole log with coconut.
5. Wrap the tinfoil around the 'log' and place in fridge for 1 hour (start your timer!).
6. When firm, cut into slices and enjoy!

Songs and Fingerplays and Math - Oh My!

Songs and fingerplays are a great way to model math skills - and an excellent way to engage your child! Try these at home, while going for a walk, while driving, or while having to wait in line - anytime is a good time to sing!

- The Ants Go Marching
- One, Two, Buckle My Shoe
- Ten in a Bed
- 5 Green and Speckled Frogs
- 5 Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed
- Zoom, Zoom, Zoom
- 5 Little Ducks That I Once Knew
- 5 Elephants Went Out One Day
- 5 Little Pumpkins



WE ARE STILL HERE FOR YOU!

Yes, things have changed a lot over the past month, but we are still here to help! Haldimand-Norfolk REACH is considered an essential service, and even though our sites are closed, we are working at home to stay connected with everyone, and to help those in need during these turbulent times.

If you or your child are in crisis, our Child and Youth Crisis Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 1-866-327-3224

Feel free to find us on Facebook - we are the Haldimand-Norfolk REACH EarlyON Child and Family Centre! We're always posting activity ideas, circle time videos and stories, and tips to stay healthy at home.

Have an idea you'd like to see us try? Email us at earlyon@hnreach.on.ca