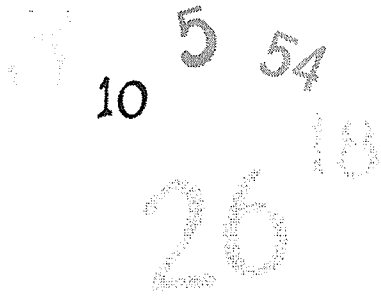


## **Some math activities to do with your child before he or she enters school...**

*Throughout the day, find ways to let children practice using arithmetic skills. Ask, for example, "How many magazines came in the mail?" "How many more letters will we need to get to have 10 letters?" "Which are there more of, magazines or letters?"*

## Count to 20

*By counting, using number names and learning to recognize differences in number values, children build a foundation for the development of number sense and mathematical reasoning.*



## What you can do: Walk and Count

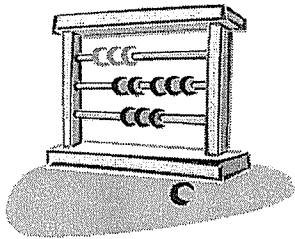
Take your child for a walk. You can walk around your neighborhood, through a park, or just around the rooms in your home. As you walk, say silly things for him to do, such as the following:

- Take two big steps and three little steps.
- Take three little steps, hop one time, take three big steps.
- Take one little step, turn around two times.
- Hop four times, turn around one time.
- Take three big steps forward and two big steps backward.
- Count aloud each kind of action that your child performs and compliment him for his efforts—"1, 2—1, 2, 3—1, 2. That's great!"
- Let your child turn the tables and say silly things for you to do as you walk.
- Expand the activity by asking him to "guess" (estimate) how many of his steps it will take, for example, to get from the tree to the corner. After he makes his estimate, have him count steps to see how close the estimate is. Next ask him how many of your steps it will take. Will it take you more steps or fewer to go the same distance? Again, have him count to see if his answers are correct.

Read counting rhymes to your child.

Play board games.

## Count a group of objects up to 15.




## What you can do: Count Everything!

Ask your child to count a few times each day. They can count forks and spoons as they set the table. They can count their books, dolls and so on. The important thing is that they learn to:

- say the numbers in order.
- say one number for each item they are counting.
- touch each item just once as they say the number.

Read some counting books together.

<p>Sort familiar objects by size, shape or color.</p>	<p>What you can do: Sort laundry, buttons, etc!</p> <p>Have your child help you sort the laundry to be washed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask her, for example, to put all the blue things together, all the whites, all the towels and so forth.</li> <li>• You might also have her count as she sorts. How many towels are there? How many shirts?</li> </ul> <p>Keep a button box. Ask you child to sort the buttons in different ways.</p> <p>Match socks.</p>
<p>Identify circles, triangles, rectangles and squares.</p> 	<p>What you can do: Go on a Shape Hunt!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fill a bowl with snack crackers in shapes such as circles, triangles and squares. Point to a cracker and say, for example, "Look, this one's round. This one has three sides. See, 1-2-3. This one has four sides. Let's count them—1-2-3-4." Place a circular cracker on the table and ask your child to find other crackers that have the same shape. Continue with the other shapes.</li> <li>2. As you make sandwiches, cut the bread into circles, squares and triangles so that you have two each of each shape. Ask your child to match the pairs of shapes to make Shape Sandwiches.</li> <li>3. Have your child search for and point out different shapes on his clothes or in the room.</li> <li>4. Identify shapes on road signs.</li> </ol>

<p>Recognize the numbers 0-10</p> <p><i>Young children may not recognize that numbers are all around them. Pointing out numbers on everyday items increases their number sense.</i></p> <p><i>Calling attention to numbers that are all around them lets children know that numbers are important and that they are used for many different purposes.</i></p>	<p><b>What to Do : Play "I Spy"</b></p> <p>Find numbers (0-10) while you're traveling in the car, grocery shopping, or relaxing at home. Look for numbers on license plates, containers, books and magazines, signs, everywhere!</p> <p>See how many numbers you can find in a minute.</p> <p>Keep magnetic numbers on your refrigerator and have your child name and then order the numbers 0-10.</p>
<p>Use words like near, far, under, over, top, bottom.</p>	<p><b>What to Do : Use these words often with your child.</b></p>
<p>Sequence three events using words <i>morning, afternoon, night</i> or <i>yesterday, today, tomorrow.</i></p>	<p><b>What to Do : Use these words often with your child.</b></p>

## Math Books for Children

*Almost every book you read with your child will offer the opportunity to talk about math, because math is everywhere. Some books lend themselves more to in-depth and specific math discussion. Only a fraction of these books could be listed here.*

Anno, Mitsumasa. Anno's Counting Book. Thomas Y. Crowell.

Anno, Mitsumasa. Anno's Counting House. Philomel Books.

Anno, Mitsumasa. Anno's Hat Trick. Philomel Books.

Carle, Eric. The Grouchy Ladybug. Philomel Books.

Carle, Eric. 1,2,3 to the Zoo. Philomel Books.

Carle, Eric. The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Philomel Books.

Carter, David. How Many Bugs in a Box? Simon and Schuster.

Cobb, Vicki and Kathy Darling. Bet You Can't. Avon.

Conran, Sebastian. My First 123 Book. Aladdin Books.

Daly, Eileen. 1 Is Red. Western.

Dee, Ruby. Two Ways to Count to Ten. Holt.

Demi. Demi's Count the Animals 123. Grosset and Dunlap.

Feelings, Muriel. Moja Means One: Swahili Counting Book. Dial.

Grayson, Marion. Let's Count. Robert B. Luce, Inc.

Grayson, Marion. Count Out. Robert B. Luce, Inc.

Hoban, Tana. Circles, Triangles, and Squares. MacMillan Publishing Company, Inc.

Hoban, Tana. Count and See. Macmillan Publishing Company, Inc.

Hoban, Tana. Is It Rough, Is It Smooth, Is It Bumpy? Macmillan Publishing Company,

## Math Books for Children

*Young children love to hear, sing and say nursery rhymes and songs. Counting rhymes and songs can be both enjoyable for them and introduce them to basic mathematics concepts, such as number names and number sequence.*

Inc.

Hudson, Cheryl. Afro-Bets 123 Book. Just Us Productions.

Hutchins, Pat. The Doorbell Rang. Greenwillow Books.

Hutchins, Pat. One Hunter. Greenwillow Books.

Jones, Carol. This Old Man. Houghton Mifflin Company.

Keats, Ezra Jack. Over in the Meadow. Scholastic. Kitchen, Bert. Animal Numbers. Dial.

Kredenser, Gaff. One Dancing Drum. Phillips.

Lionni, Leo. Numbers To Talk About. Pantheon Books.

Marley, Deborah. Animals One to Ten. Raintree.

McMillan, Bruce. Counting Wildflowers. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, Inc.

McMillan, Bruce. One, Two, One Pair. Scholastic. Nolan, Dennis. Monster Bubbles. Prentice Hall.

Pluckrose, Henry. Know about Counting. Franklin Watts.

Pomerantz, Charlotte. The Half-Birthday Party. Clarion Books.

Ross, H.L. Not Counting Monsters. Platt and Munk.

Tafari, Nancy. Who's Counting? William Morrow & Co.

Ziefert, Harriet. A Dozen Dizzy Dogs. Random House.