

Explore Family Math Activities

The following two activities have been adapted from the Building Blocks curriculum, usually implemented in pre-K Explore classrooms. The activities have been adapted so that they can easily be done at home with families and other caregivers, with few materials needed. They are designed to be playful and fun, while also supporting children's development in an at-home setting.

Activity 1: Number Me

Materials Needed: None

How to play:

- In a fun, playful conversation, have conversations with kids about numbers, as they relate to them. Encourage them to respond with words and showing you that many fingers
 - "How old are you?"
 - "How many arms do you have?"
 - "Show me your 2 feet"
 - "Show me 5 fingers"
 - "Wiggle your 2 feet"
- Have fun making mistakes so they can correct you
 - "Show me your 3 eyes"
 - "No, I have 2 eyes!"

Why this game?

- Young children learn best when learning is all about them.
- Young children love it when adults make mistakes and they can correct them.

Activity 2: Our Day

Materials Needed: Markers, paper

How to play:

- Draw or print pictures that represent each portion of the day; wake up, breakfast, reading, play, lunch, etc.
- Help your child to organize the pictures in the order that they occur. As you talk about the schedule use ordinal words (first, second, third, etc.) or words that refer to sequence and time (first, next, last, before or after)

Why this game?

- Using words to describe order will eventually help children to order numbers.

- Children learn when things have meaning in their lives. 60 minutes in an hour is an abstract concept, however “playtime comes **after** reading” is more concrete and easier for young children to understand.
- Routine is a comfort to children. The pictures allow children to see and take comfort in what will happen next.

All Explore Family Math Activities are adapted from Building Blocks, © Clements & Sarama, 2013, McGraw-Hill Education.