

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 for three and four-year-olds and 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: How Many Now?

Materials Needed: Items that can be counted.

How to play:

- Play this while your child is eating countable foods, or if your child is playing with a small group of objects. For example, if your child has four orange slices on their plate, invite your child to determine how many slices there are in total. Then, place one more orange slice on the plate and ask "How many now?"
- Invite your child to eat one orange slice, and ask "How many now?" and, "How do you know?"
- Make observations together about the total amount after objects are added or taken away.

Why this game?

- This game provides concrete understanding of what adding and subtracting means, since your child can see and touch the objects being used.

Activity 2: Laundry Helper

Materials Needed: Clothing.

How to play:

- Invite your child to sort the laundry into categories. Pose questions such as:
 - "How could we organize these clothes into piles so it's easier to put them away?"
 - "Do we have more pants or shirts? How do you know?"
 - "Is there another way we could organize the clothes?"

Why this game?

- When children sort, they are learning how to identify attributes, and then group items by those attributes. This builds critical thinking, as they discover which things belongs together and why.

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