

FAMILY MATH IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

Early childhood is a time of amazing growth, learning, and curiosity. During this stage—birth to age eight—children’s brains are growing quickly, setting the stage for future learning. Kids are exploring their world, using their imagination, learning language, and building social skills through play and everyday experiences. They are also learning early math—like how to count, notice patterns and shapes, compare sizes, measure, and solve simple problems—often before they even start school.

WHAT FAMILIES CAN DO

Believe in Your Child’s Math Skills:

Children can do big thinking, even when they’re small! Believe that your child can learn math, and support them every day. Ask how they solve problems, notice their ideas, and let them know their thinking matters. Cheer them on when things are hard, praise their effort, and remind them that mistakes are part of learning.



Talk, Read, Sing, and Play with Math:

You can add math to your day in fun ways—just by talking, reading, singing, writing, and playing. Count steps as you walk, sort snacks by color or shape, or talk about what’s taller or shorter. Read books about numbers or shapes. Sing songs with numbers and rhymes. Play with blocks, puzzles, or cards to build early math skills like counting, measuring, and comparing.

Build Relationships with Helpers in Your Community:

Families can work with teachers, librarians, doctors, and museum staff to help their child grow in math. Ask teachers how your child is doing with math and share what you see at home. Go to library storytimes with counting or shape activities, borrow math books, or join family math events. Talk to community centers about fun math activities nearby. When families and community members work together, children see that math is fun, important, and everywhere.



RESOURCES

Early Math Made Easy for Families: Resources designed to help families better understand the importance of early math and ways to support it.

- [Zeno 5 Practices: Tips to help you create math habits](#)
- [Let's Talk, Read and Sing about STEM! Tips for Families with Young Children](#)

Math talk during storybook reading: Ideas for math-themed books and stories families can read with young children.

- [Choosing Storybooks That Promote Early Math Learning](#)
- [Bedtime Math](#)
- [Now Read This! Pattern Books](#)
- [Ellen Mayer Books](#)
- [6 Bilingual Kids Math Books Featuring Hispanic and Latino Characters](#)

Family Math songs, games, and videos: Videos and resources with songs and games families and children can sing and play together

- [@FamilyMathKids](#)
- [PBS SoCal Family Math](#)
- [Math Games for Home and School](#)
- [Measure! Everything](#)

Finding math in everyday activities: Resources with ideas for how to infuse math into everyday experiences

- [Sesame Workshop](#)
- [DREME Family Math](#)
- [Make It Math Toolkit](#)
- [Zeno Math](#)