



Developing a love of reading

Make reading with your child a fun time. Cuddle, giggle, choose books you both enjoy.

Read nursery rhymes. These help your child develop his or her awareness of sounds and rhythms.

Sing songs. March. Dance. Clap. Have fun with sounds and rhythm.

Let your child see you reading for your own enjoyment.

Mention reading during the day: "I'm glad the sign tells us about the detour" and "Look! That sign says the store's having a big sale!"



Developing a love of learning

Praise your child when he or she learns something new. Comment on how exciting it is to learn a new skill or fact. (Try to hide your boredom the 417th time you're told the names of the dinosaurs. 😊)

Be aware how hard your child is working to learn. Mention it to him or her: "You are still trying to get your shoes tied. Good work!" or "You remembered all the numbers in our phone number! Wow!"

Make your praise as specific as possible. There's a big difference between "What a good girl you are!" and "You remembered to thank the waitress when she helped us. That was kind!"



What use is math?

Show how you use math in almost everything you do: "Let's count to make sure we have enough cookies." "Do we have enough money to buy that?" "You've grown another inch!"

Let your child help you count, stack, sort, and pack things. This increases spatial awareness as well as self-esteem.

Make sure your child sees you using math in real life—at the grocery store, balancing your checkbook, buying clothes, building something.



Math Concepts

- ⇒ Counting, of course
- ⇒ Identifying coins
- ⇒ Measuring
- ⇒ Cooking (measuring, counting)
- ⇒ Sorting by size (or color, or shape, or any other attribute)
- ⇒ Comparing: big, bigger, biggest ... small, middle-sized, large ... longer and shorter, heavier and lighter ... older and younger ...
- ⇒ Stacking and fitting things in other things: what will fit? What comes next? How many can we get in there?
- ⇒ Today, tomorrow, yesterday, winter, spring, summer, fall