PARENT WORKSHOP: EVERYDAY MATH

Goal: Support parents and caregivers in promoting everyday early math skills.

Use this Parenting Minutes video, discussion questions and suggested activities to guide parents and caregivers through a simple workshop that will support families in finding everyday opportunities for learning and building early math skills. This workshop is intended for groups of Preschool and Pre-K parents and caregivers. Have fun!

SUGGESTED TIME
30 minutes

SUGGESTED MATERIALS
- Chart paper and markers
- Screen for projecting Parenting Minutes video (*you will need internet access to stream the video)
- Copies of math handouts for each parent: “Shapes Scavenger Hunt,” “Numbers Scavenger Hunt Bingo,” and “Grocery Store Math Bingo”
- (Optional) Various items for counting and sorting (i.e. paperclips, bottle caps, coins etc.)

VIDEOS
Early Math: (https://www.wnet.org/education/video/early-math/)
**INTRODUCTION**

Begin the workshop by allowing parents and caregivers to introduce themselves and tell how old their children are. If you’d like, include the icebreaker question: “Are there any fun number, shape or counting activities that you and your child like to do together?” (You can also ask, by show of hands, if their children enjoy counting games, songs or rhymes, number/shape puzzles etc.)

**DISCUSSION**

Introduce the goal of the workshop as a discussion about the development of early math skills for preschoolers and the many opportunities for everyday learning. Remind attendees that building an early foundation of basic math skills helps prepare children for school and future learning success. Emphasize that early math concepts, such as counting, number and pattern recognition, and shape and size comparisons, can easily be incorporated into everyday play and activities that are part of their daily routines. Highlight that this is how children learn best and that fun opportunities for learning math are everywhere!

**VIEW VIDEOS**

Play the Parenting Minutes video, “Early Math” (the video is approximately 1:40 minutes long). *The video is available in English, Spanish, Bengali and Chinese

**VIDEO DISCUSSION**

Allow some time for comments on the video. Prompting questions may include:

- What are some of the math concepts being introduced in the video?
- Where did you see math teaching and learning taking place?
- How was counting, number recognition, or shape, size and pattern identification or comparison integrated into daily routines or everyday activities?
- Why do you think building these basic math skills early on is important?
BRAINSTORMING ACTIVITY

Using chart paper and markers, ask attendees to brainstorm the following questions:

- Can you think of some math games you might play with your child using everyday objects (e.g. counting or creating patterns with coins, buttons, small toys, etc.)?
- What are some ways you can turn everyday moments into an opportunity for learning and building math skills? For instance, how can you support your child’s development of math skills:
  - In the car or on public transportation?
  - Walking down the street together?
  - At bath time?
  - Making dinner / during mealtimes?
- What are some ways that you might incorporate math concepts such as counting, number or pattern recognition, or shape and size comparisons:
  - At the playground?
  - At the grocery store?
  - At a restaurant?
- Can you think of any other places or ways you might promote math learning each day in your daily routine?

DISTRIBUTE ATTACHED MATH HANDOUTS

Allow time for attendees to read them over. [Note: There are also additional handout links in the PBS KIDS Resources for Parents and Caregivers Section] Mention that these are sample math activities and recommendations for children that they can use as inspiration when they are both in and out of the home or even on the move.

SHAPE OR NUMBER SCAVENGER HUNT

Go on a “Shapes or Numbers Scavenger Hunt” with parents to help them understand and appreciate the many ways that math learning can be made fun and can easily be incorporated into regular, everyday activities. Explain to parents that shapes and numbers can be found all around us and encourage them to be creative in where to search and discover them (i.e. signs, building features, various objects or images). Highlight that they can play search and find games like this wherever they are with their children (the grocery store, at the park, on a walk, etc.) and emphasize that the more they point out and draw attention to numbers and shapes in the world around them, the more their children will learn and begin to notice them on their own!
EXTENSION ACTIVITIES (OPTIONAL)

If time allows, invite parents to play a few counting and sorting games using everyday objects that have been gathered prior to the workshop. Some easy-to-find, everyday items could include bottle or milk caps, coins, paperclips, sticky notes, pen or pencils etc.

- Show parents how they can count and sort the items with their children to see “how many” there are of each (for older children this is also an opportunity to talk about “more or less”).
- Demonstrate how to create simple, repeating patterns using the objects and illustrate how to say the pattern out loud to help children hear the rhythm and follow along. For instance, “I made a pattern... pen, pencil, pen, pencil...” or “Look, these bottle caps make a pattern... red, red, blue, red, red, blue” etc. You can also have parents take turns finishing each other’s patterns, in order to model or practice how they might do the activity with their children.

Remind parents that they can help their children notice patterns and make comparisons in the world around them everywhere they go. Patterns might be found in clothing, in floor tiles, in architecture or in artwork and parents can support their children’s learning by inviting them to recite the patterns with them or guess what comes next!
**PBS KIDS RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND CAREGivers**

**SESAME STREET MATH IS EVERYWHERE TOOLKIT**
https://cdn.sesamestreet.org/sites/default/files/media_folders/Media%20Root/PNCMath_English_12pgCGG.pdf?_ga=2.131340684.2019259382.1574100606-348033432.1570472241

*A special guide that supports parents in helping young children explore and understand math in their everyday world.*

**SESAME STREET IN COMMUNITIES: MATH TOPICS**
https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/math/

*Math is everywhere—it’s in the numbers, shapes and patterns all around us. Making math part of kids’ everyday lives lets them know it’s fun...and important.*

**PBS KIDS FOR PARENTS: MATH TOPIC**
https://www.pbs.org/parents/learn-grow/all-ages/math

*Fun and educational games and activities to help kids explore everyday math*

**KITCHEN MATH: HOW MEALTIME CAN SUPPORT KIDS’ NUMBER SENSE**
https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/kitchen-math-how-mealtime-can-support-kids-number-sense

*Some activities and conversation starters that can help young children find the math embedded in daily living.*

**PEG + CAT: GROCERY STORE MATH BINGO**
https://www.pbs.org/parents/printables/grocery-store-math-bingo

**PBS KIDS MATH GAMES AND APPS**

**PBS KIDS: PBS Parents Play & Learn** (https://pbskids.org/apps/pbs-parents-play--learn.html)

**PEG + CAT: Magical Shape Hunt** (https://pbskids.org/peg/games/magical-shape-hunt)

**PEG + CAT: 3-2-1 Snack** (https://pbskids.org/peg/games/3-2-1-snack)

**PEG + CAT: Chicken Blastoff** (https://pbskids.org/peg/games/chicken-blastoff)

SESAME STREET: Count Me to Sleep (https://www.sesamестreet.org/games?id=25579)

SESAME STREET: Shape Voyage (https://www.sesamестreet.org/games?id=267)

SESAME STREET: Number Popper (https://www.sesamестreet.org/games?id=266)

CURIOUS GEORGE: George’s Busy Day (https://pbskids.org/curiousgeorge/busyday/)


**Shapes Scavenger Hunt!**

Search for these shapes in objects, signs, buildings or elsewhere around you. List where you find the shapes (or draw a picture) in the space provided. How many can you find?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circle</th>
<th>Circle</th>
<th>Diamond</th>
<th>Diamond</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Circle" /></td>
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<td><img src="image" alt="Diamond" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oval</td>
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<td>Heart</td>
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<td>Star</td>
<td>Star</td>
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<td><img src="image" alt="Triangle" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Square</td>
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<td>Rectangle</td>
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**Numbers Scavenger Hunt Bingo!**

Search for the numbers on signs, buildings, or other places they might be. Mark or color in the box of each number you find until you fill the card. **BINGO!** Practice counting to **20**!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
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<th>3</th>
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**Grocery Store Math Bingo**

Can you find these items in the grocery store?
Cross the items off the list as you find them. Can you fill a row or the whole card?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Three apples</th>
<th>Cube</th>
<th>Sold by a gallon</th>
<th>Rectangle</th>
<th>Less than $1.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greater than $1.00</td>
<td>Dairy</td>
<td>Less than one pound</td>
<td>Rectangular prism</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sold by a quart</td>
<td>Less than one ounce</td>
<td>Free Space</td>
<td>One carrot</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sold by a dozen</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sphere</td>
<td>Less than $5.00</td>
<td>Four strawberries</td>
<td>Greater than 1 ounce</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Square</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two bananas</td>
<td>Oval</td>
<td>More than one pound</td>
<td>Cylinder</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Greater than $5.00</td>
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