

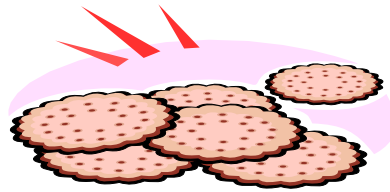
Greetings!

This is the second in a series of four bulletins for parents of children aged three to six. These bulletins give you ideas about how you can help your child do well in school. This second bulletin focuses on math skills. We offer some practical tips on what you can do to help your child develop math skills. We will also give you a fun math activity to try with your child.



To be successful in math, your child needs to be able to think accurately. You can help develop your child's math skills in the following ways.¹

- Talk a lot about numbers, and use number concepts in daily routines with your preschooler. When you cook, say things like, "Let's divide the cookie dough into two parts so we can bake some now and put the rest into the freezer." Or when getting ready for dinner, say, "How many plates do we need on the table? One for Mommy, one for Grandpop, and one for Jenny."



- Talk about numbers that you want your preschooler to remember—age, address, phone number, height and weight. Help your child to learn these numbers, especially his/her address and phone number.



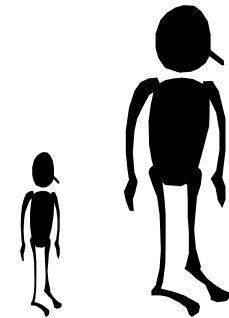
- Talk about numbers when you plan and go about your daily routine. Say things like, "In 15 minutes the cookies will come out of the oven," or "In only 3 days we will be going to Grandma's house."



- Give your child opportunities to learn math. Play games that have scoring, such as throwing balls into a basket, to help your child learn to count. Ask your child to count things around the house—toys, books, animals, etc.



- Ask your child questions like, "Which has more/less?" and "Which is bigger/smaller?" Asking these questions helps your child compare quantities. This skill will help him/her learn to add and subtract. For example, when you pour milk into two glasses, ask which glass has more milk. Ask who is taller—mommy or daddy?



To work on counting skills, try this fun game!

Backyard Bowling

Materials you need:

- 10 recycled plastic juice or soda bottles
- medium-size rubber ball
- smaller balls
- chalk
- water or sand

What to do together: Help your child set up the bottles in a triangular shape, starting with one bottle in the front row, two in the second, three in the fourth, and four in the final row. (To keep the bottles from being blown over by the wind, fill each one part way with water or sand.) As you set the bottles up, count how many are in each row. Then, add the rows together to count how many total bottles you have.

Make a mark to indicate where you'll stand to roll the ball. You can play the traditional way and do two rolls each turn, or you can encourage your child to take as many turns as he/she needs until all of the bottles have fallen. Help your child practice counting, adding, and subtracting by counting the bottles that get knocked over, then ones that are still standing, etc.

¹ Math tips were adapted from: Office of Educational Research and Improvement Programs for the Improvement of Practice (1992). *Helping your child learn math*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education. Retrieved from <http://readyweb.crc.uiuc.edu/library/1992/getready/getready.html>

Ready, Set, Go ...:

Ready, Set, Go ... Getting Children Ready for School is a series of four educational bulletins about school readiness for parents of children aged three to six. The purpose of the bulletins is to help parents prepare their young child to enter school. The bulletins focus on four areas: language/reading, math, science, and art. The bulletins offer general advice on how parents can help their child develop skills in these important areas through fun activities.

For more information contact:

[Laurie Welch, 570-726-0022) or Daniel F. Perkins, Ph.D., Associate Professor Family and Youth Resiliency and Policy.

For more information, check out the Family and Youth Resiliency and Policy website at <http://agexted.cas.psu.edu/fcs/dp/fyrrp.html>

For more information and resources on school readiness go to <http://readyweb.crc.uiuc.edu/>

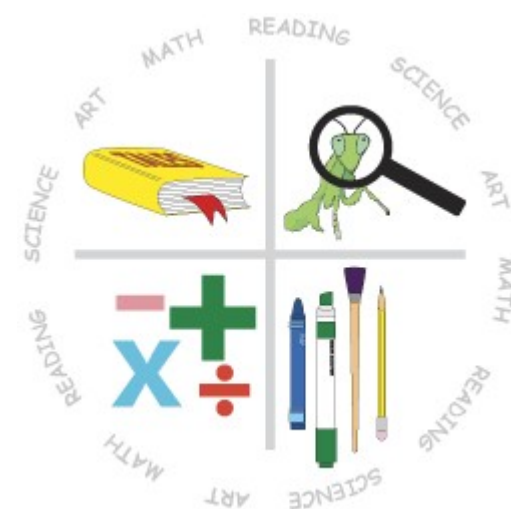
This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. The Pennsylvania State University prohibits discrimination and harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Discrimination or harassment against faculty, staff, or students will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901, Tel 814-865-4700/V, 814-863-1150/TTY.

© The Pennsylvania State University 2003

Ready, Set, Go ...

Getting Children Ready for School



MATH

PENNSTATE

