

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.

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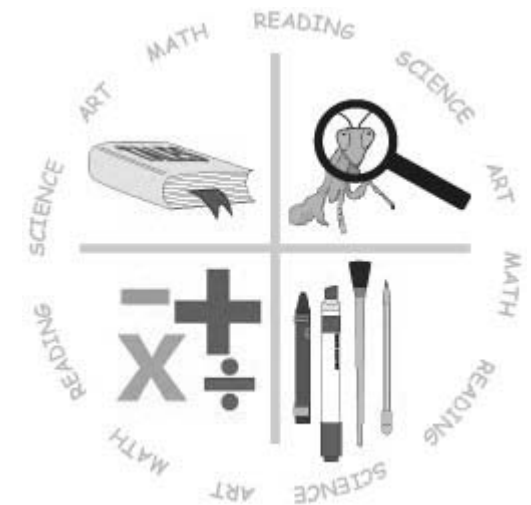
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