

SUPPORT AT HOME: MATHEMATICS



- Play matching games and sorting exercises (e.g. sorting utensils from dishwasher).
- Start a pattern with objects and ask child to continue by asking, "What goes next?"
- Sing songs that give names and sequence of numbers: "Once I Caught a Fish Alive," "Five Green Speckled Frogs," "One, Two, Buckle my Shoe," "Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed," "Johnny Works with One Hammer," "Five Little Ducks Went Out One Day," "Alice the Camel."

- Make accurate descriptions of observations of size, height, weight, speed, distance, order.
- Count aloud with your child in your daily life (e.g. while preparing a snack, while walking up steps or gathering utensils and dishes for setting the table). Remember that the child needs to touch and feel each object to begin connecting the idea of numeracy and quantity, which is different from reciting numbers in sequence.
- Ask “How many are there?” when reading picture books aloud together. Encourage your child to count while pointing to each object. Being able to recite numbers in sequence is not the same as counting (knowing how many four is).
- Encourage children who are becoming more aware of number symbols in their environment (e.g. clocks, lift buttons, bus routes, license plates, prices in shops). Do not avoid large numbers, children are delighted by long names!
- Describe what you are doing when dividing food equally (e.g. “I am slicing the pizza in quarters, one quarter for you, one quarter for me, one quarter for Grandma, and one quarter for Grandpa!”).
- Involve your child in meal preparation and let them prepare a shopping list from the list of ingredients. Show how to use measuring materials to accurately follow a recipe. Remember to allow your child to do the tough work like kneading dough, mixing thick ingredients, pounding meat, and scrubbing dirty potatoes. Cooking activities are an essential part of developing fine motor skills in the home, and also are a great opportunity to introduce different sensory concepts, strengthen muscles, and enhance vocabulary through real experiences.
- Write down a number on a slip of paper and invite your child to bring “that many” of a particular object without saying the number aloud. This can work well at the grocery store. Keep in mind that the Casa child loves to exert maximum effort with his body, so the heavier the better (e.g. books, bottles of water, canned goods, buckets of sand)!