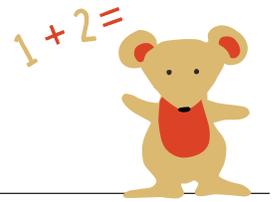


# LET'S TALK ABOUT MATH



## EVERYDAY FUN WITH ADDITION AND SUBTRACTION

Did you know that your child begins developing early math skills from birth—simply through the daily routines and activities you share together? You can help your child understand these math concepts by talking about numbers and quantity during everyday experiences.

From birth to five, children develop **addition and subtraction** skills as they experiment with:

- Counting the number of items in a group of objects
- Adding objects to a group
- Removing objects from a group
- Comparing groups of objects—to figure out which has more or if they have the same amount

Young children learn addition and subtraction skills through play and everyday experiences with you. When you count with your child and talk about how quantities change when you add or remove objects, you help your little one learn and practice this important skill.

## PARENT-CHILD ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT LEARNING ABOUT ADDITION AND SUBTRACTION

### 0-12 MONTHS

Infants seem to naturally understand the concept of “more” – the first step toward understanding addition. As you feed your baby, pause and ask her if she wants more. Wait to see how she responds and narrate her cues: “Oh, you’re licking your lips and looking at the spoon. You want more.”

### 12-24 MONTHS

Build on your child’s growing understanding of “one” and “more.” At snack-time, offer your child a cracker and when he is done, ask if he wants “one more.” When you are loading the washer, ask your toddler to hand you “one more” piece of laundry. When you and your child are building with blocks, describe her play using math language: “You put one more block on top.” The concept of “one more” forms the foundation for understanding addition later on.

### 24-36 MONTHS

Play “How many?” as you unpack groceries with your toddler. While unpacking from the supermarket, ask your toddler, “How many boxes of cereal did we buy? Let’s count them and find out.”

### 3-5 YEARS

Many simple number problems come up during your child’s day. Turn these moments into opportunities to build her growing addition and subtraction skills. As you sort and fold laundry, count with your preschooler to discover how many socks and how many pairs. Ask your preschooler to help you set the table: “Aunt Rosa is coming to dinner. We will need one chair. There are 3 people in our family and Aunt Rosa makes one more. How many chairs do we need altogether?”

Play simple board games (or make up your own). Counting the dots on dice to find out “how many altogether” is great practice in counting and adding for preschoolers.

YOU CAN FIND MORE TIPS LIKE THESE—AS WELL AS VIDEOS, INFORMATION, AND MORE—AT  
[TALKINGISTEACHING.ORG](http://TALKINGISTEACHING.ORG) OR [ZEROTOTHREE.ORG](http://ZEROTOTHREE.ORG).



**ZERO TO THREE**  
Early connections last a lifetime

