

# Math Readiness

[fyi.uwex.edu/parentingthepreschooler/](http://fyi.uwex.edu/parentingthepreschooler/)

## Tips to Enjoy Math

- ◆ Point out math in everyday life; ask “how many apple slices do you have? What about if you eat one?”
- ◆ Teach more, less, equal, and ordering to help understand numbers.
- ◆ Use “math” words to describe an object (big, small, heavy, light, etc.)
- ◆ Read books that rhyme, repeat, or have numbers.
- ◆ Point out numbers and shapes all around, such as on food labels, street signs, or store windows.
- ◆ Sort items by shape, color, and size.
- ◆ Ask child to guess how many full spoons it will take to finish their soup.
- ◆ Go on a shape hunt or counting trip outside.



Photograph by Carol LaCasse



Photograph by Lisa Woelbing

## The Value of Math Activities

Children who understand numbers and other math concepts, like shapes, sizes, and patterns, do better in school. Knowing numbers and counting prepares preschoolers for addition and subtraction. Comparing objects helps children to see the difference between size and shape.

## Math: Why does it Matter?

Math exposure is linked to elementary and later school success. Research shows that a strong foundation of basic math skills, like naming numbers, counting, and ordering, sets a child up for developing a deeper understanding of math and problem solving as they age.



Photograph by Christa Thao

## Why Math?

- Children with strong math skills when they enter Kindergarten are more likely to do well in all areas of school as they grow older.
- Early math skills can be as important as early reading skills.
- Math helps children make sense of the world they live in, such as at home, childcare, or stores.
- Math helps children learn to think logically, connect ideas, and learn how to reason.
- Math leads to life-long enjoyment. For instance, counting skills can help children enjoy card and board games.
- Board games like Chutes and Ladders help children learn about distances between numbers.

### UW-Extension Family Living Programs

"Raising Kids, Eating Right, Spending Smart, Living Well"



For more information, please contact your county UW-Extension office:

<http://counties.uwex.edu/>

[Link To References](#)

Copyright © 2015 by the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System doing business as the division of Cooperative Extension of the University of Wisconsin-Extension. All rights reserved.

An EEO/Affirmative Action employer, the University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements.