

The Art of Math

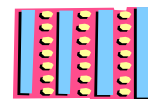
We all use math every day without even realizing it. Math relates to things we do in the real world, and to other subjects like art and music. Connections make mathematics easier for children to understand because they allow children to apply common rules to many different things. Mathematics for young children is having experiences with concrete objects.

Collage materials are countable objects: buttons, shells, bottle caps, pine cones.

- ❑ Give your child a variety of collage items to glue on a piece of paper. Ask how many buttons or shells are on the paper. Ask your child to describe some differences between each item.

Patterns and shapes are basic math concepts that can be developed into creative art experiences.

- ❑ Cut out construction paper shapes to be used in patterns and designs.
- ❑ While listening to music, ask your children to draw shapes in the air with their fingers, streamers, or scarves.



Sculpture reinforces learning about objects in space by changing the arrangement and shape of objects, and fitting things together.

- ❑ Try making sculptures from a variety of materials: playdo, pipe cleaners, blocks of ice in different sizes, cardboard boxes, or egg cartons. Let your children problem solve how to fit the items together.



Music and movement activities can reinforce mathematics as children respond to rhythm and patterns. Starting and stopping movement activities can help reinforce the concept of time.

- ❑ Sing songs that rhyme, repeat or have numbers in them to reinforce patterns in word and sound. Example: "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe." Backwards counting songs like "The Five Little Monkeys" reinforce children's understanding of the fixed ordering of numbers.



Fromboluti, Carol Sue and Rinck, Natalie, Early Childhood: Where Learning Begins: Mathematics U. S. Department of Education, National Institute on Early Childhood Development and Education, June 1999.

Kohl, MaryAnn F. and Garner, Cindy, MathArts: Exploring Math Through Art for 3 to 6 year olds, Gryphon House, 1996.

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