



Infant/Toddler Math Activities

Car Parade (18 months - 3 years old)

Make lines on the floor using painters or masking tape. The lines can be curved, straight, or zig-zagged. After the tape is on the floor encourage toddler to line cars up on the tape. Cars can be sorted by color or type as they are lined up. Children will also use their early measurement skills as they how many cars long each line is. *Can be done with any small toys (i.e. Legos, animals) that child has that can be sorted into groups*

Card Sort (2 - 3 years old)

Remove all the jacks, kings, queens and aces from a deck of cards. Give the deck of cards to your child and ask them to sort them by color. To extend this activity you can have your child sort numbers 2-5 and once they are comfortable with that have them sort 6-10. You can extend further by sorting each number by color

Position Words Game (2 ½ - 3 years old)

Take a cup and a small car and play “Simon Says” with your toddler using directional words. Directional words include: next to, in front of, behind, beside, under, over, below, above, around, on, off, top, inside and outside. You can extend this activity by adding a second cup and car and use words such as between and through, as well as, specifying color and/or size of car.

Shape Sorter (10 months - 3 years old)

Shape sorters encourage children to use their problem-solving skills as they work to put the correct shape into the correct spot. Once a child has mastered putting the correct shape into the correct slot they then can begin to work on shape and color recognition as they work on the sorter. While working on shape recognition children count the numbers of sides the shape has and compare and contrast the shapes. A shape sorter can easily be made at home! Set up a round container and a square container, and provide circle-shaped cereal (such as Cheerios) and square-shaped cereal (such as Quaker Toasted Oatmeal squares). Have your child sort the circle pieces of cereal in to the round container, and the square pieces in to the square container. Cut out a variety of shapes from a piece of cardboard or foam. Measure and cut out corresponding shapes out of card stock. Mount the cardboard or foam on top of a clear plastic container. Have your child insert the card-stock shapes into the correct slots.

Building Towers (6 months - 3 years old)

Play with your child by building towers made of large blocks, boxes, plastic bowls, bowls and other materials. What’s even more fun is when she knocks down the tower. This teaches spatial relationships, as well as differences in sizes and shapes. You can extend this activity by moving the materials outside to practice building on different surfaces. As you are building talk to your child about the shapes that are being included in the tower, as well as, how many blocks are in your tower.

Teaching Patterns (10 months - 3 years old)

To introduce patterns to your child, start with a clap, tap game. Simply clap your hands and then tap your legs, repeat several times and ask your child what comes next (10-18 months old). For older children (1 ½ -3 years old) you can set out two bowls with small objects that are the same color, such



buttons, small blocks, or beads. Begin a pattern using the clap tap game (I.e. red button (clap), white button (tap)) After doing this several times ask your child “What’s next”?

What’s Missing Game (2 ½ - 3 years old)

On a tray or table set out 3-4 small objects your child can name that are different colors. Point to each object and slowly say the name. Have your child close or cover their eyes while you place a cup over one of the objects. When you are ready ask your child “What’s missing?” This game has many skills including memory, turn taking, patience, and vocabulary.

Pom-Pom Sorting Jars (9 months - 3 years old)

Put jars/containers of varying sizes on a tray or table. Give your child pom-poms or cotton balls and encourage them to sort them into the jars/containers. If sorting pom-poms encourage your child to sort by size (small, medium, large, extra-large) in addition to color. Count how many of each pom-pom/cotton balls fit into each container that they are using. To extend this activity you can give your child a pair of tongs or tweezers to place the pom-pom/cotton balls in each container.

Magnet Puzzle (2 - 3 years old)

On a large piece of paper trace the outline of magnets (alphabet, different shapes, transportation etc.) and tape paper to refrigerator or door. Then encourage your child to match the magnet to the outline. As your child works on this, they are using their spatial awareness skills while rotating the piece to fit inside the outline. Children also use their problem solving and critical thinking skills to find the correct piece for each outline.

Lid Match (1 - 3 years old)

Give your child an assortment (size and shape) of plastic containers and lids. Have your child sort into piles of containers and lids. While your child is matching the lids, they are building the strength in their hands/fingers. They are also using problem solving skills to match the correct lids; determining the size and shape. The plastic containers can also be used to build towers; which you can count how many containers in the tower.