

grow into math

Kindergarten Readiness Games

Try these simple, fun games to help your child gain confidence and see the joy in math as they prepare to start kindergarten. Let's play!

Gimme Five!

Materials:

- Just your hands!

Math skills:

- Subitizing (recognizing number patterns without having to count)

How to play:

- Hold up a number of fingers on one hand from 1-5
- Ask your child to name how many fingers you're holding up (if they need to count at first, that's great!)
- Take turns holding up fingers and saying the number as quickly as possible to practice recognizing the finger patterns without needing to count

Tip: Play with dice or dot cards to practice recognizing other common patterns!

Guess My Number

Materials:

- Cards with 1-5 dots or numerals (Make your own with paper and markers!)

Math skills:

- Number order
- Comparing magnitudes
- Logical reasoning

How to play:

- Start with all cards face-up
- Player 1 chooses a secret number
- Player 2 asks Yes or No questions to narrow down the possibilities, like:
 - Is it bigger than 3?
 - Is it even?
- As Player 1 answers the questions, flip over the cards that you know aren't the secret number
- Keep asking questions until you've found the secret number!

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Subtraction Cover-up!

Materials:

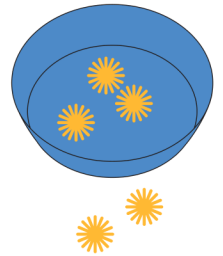
- 5 small loose parts (pompoms, small toys, etc.)
- Small bowl

How to play:

- Start by counting the 5 loose parts together
- Have your child cover their eyes while you hide some loose parts with the bowl (for example, hide 2 and leave 3 visible)
- Ask your child to open their eyes and try to figure out how many objects are hiding under the bowl
- Then it's their turn to hide!

Math skills:

- Addition/subtraction
- Number bonds
- Counting



Tip: Encourage kids to use their 5 fingers to figure out how many might be missing!

Shape Collage

Materials:

- Construction paper + scissors
- Tape or gluestick

Math skills:

- Shape + pattern learning
- Spatial reasoning

How to play:

- Work together to cut paper shapes of different colors and sizes
- Tape or glue pieces down to make a collage
- Decorate with markers or stickers
- While you create, talk about the shapes, comparing their sizes or numbers of sides, and using spatial terms like "above," "below," and "between"



Bonus: Mealtime Math Talk!

Research shows that adding everyday "math talk" is one of the most effective ways to help your child develop a deep understanding of math. The best part? Math is everywhere!

Materials:

- None

Math skills:

- Infinite

Here are some quick math talk ideas for mealtimes:

- Can you help me count out 6 plates and forks for the table?
- How many crackers would you like? Can you count and make sure I gave you the right amount?
- Let's split this pack of 12 cookies evenly between the 3 of us.
- Can you find the smallest spoon to give to the baby?