



Partners in Learning

How can I support my child's development of numeracy skills?

You play an integral role in your child's learning in numeracy. Engaging your child in discussions and experiences about math allows for greater mathematical understanding and success in school and in daily life. Today, students need to be critical thinkers and problem solvers, and they must have the ability to reason and to communicate effectively. Opportunities to play and learn together in mathematical and problem solving activities help to build critical skills and promote solid, positive attitudes about math.

Here are some suggestions for math activities that you can try at home.

Counting

- Count toys, items of clothing, collections (such as stickers, buttons or rocks) and any other items
- When counting a group of objects, have your child start in the middle of the set of objects. Your child will learn that you can begin counting from anywhere but the total remains the same.
- Sing counting songs and use counting in games and rhymes. Count forward and backward as well. Practice skip counting (counting by 2, 3, 4 or 5) using blocks or buttons.



Number Operations

Use a deck of cards to play math games

- **Higher Number.** Shuffle or mix up the cards and then leave them face down in a pile. Each player takes two cards and adds the numbers. The player with the higher sum gets the other player's cards. Players continue to take and add up two cards at a time until no cards are left. The player with more cards is the winner.
- **Lower Number** You can play the same game with subtraction. The player with the lower difference (answer) gives his or her cards to the other player. The person with the fewest cards at the end is the winner. You can play a similar game with multiplication.

Look for opportunities to show your child that numeracy is a part of everyday life. More ideas will be presented here in "Partners In Learning" in the upcoming months.

Sourced from [Doing Mathematics With Your Child \(K-6\)](http://www.education.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideNumEn.pdf)

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