GETTING READY FOR **KINDERGARTEN** MATHEMATICS

Have your child count toys, kitchen utensils, items of clothing as they get dressed, collections (such as rocks, buttons or toys) and any other items your child shows interest in. For a challenge, have your child count individual parts and then objects (count the wheels and then the cars, count the eyes and then the teddy bears, etc.). **Working on:** Knowing the number names in order (one, two, three… up to 10, working toward 20). Learning to keep track and stay organized when counting. Understand that when you count you only count each object one time.	Ask for your child's help to take inventory of the items where you live. "I wonder how many chairs we have around the table? In this room?" Count windows, light switches, lights or places people sleep. You might write down "how many" by using a combination of pictures and numbers. For example, have your child draw a picture of the object and then say the number. You can write the number for your child if needed. **Working on:** Knowing the number names in order (one, two, three...up to 10, working toward 20). Learning to keep track and stay organized when counting. Understand that when you count you only count each item one time.
Mix it up by having your child start at different places when counting. For example, have them count a group of items. If they started counting from right to left, have them count the objects again, starting with the item that they ended on the 1st time. Children are usually excited to see that they can count the items starting at many different places, yet they always end with the same amount! **Working on:** Developing an understanding that when counting objects, you can begin with any object in a set and the total will still be the same.	Place objects in a bag. Before unpacking the bag, have your child try to guess how many items are inside. Then, count the objects with your child to see how close their estimate is. Next, have your child sort the items into groups. Ask your child to explain why they put certain items together. Can your child think of a different way to sort the items? Count the items in each group. Which group has more? Which has less? Which has the most? **Working on:** Knowing the number names in order (one, two, three...up to 10, working toward 20), counting each object only once (when taken out of the bag), estimating (understanding about how many different-sized objects you might have without counting), and sorting.
Sing counting songs and use counting in meaningful ways with games such as Hide-and-Seek, or simple board games or even when walking up steps. Some counting songs and rhymes help children to count forward and backward as well. Counting Together: to 10 (preschool goal), Count to 20! (Beginning of Kindergarten), to 100 (by the end of Kindergarten) **Working on:** Knowing the number names in order (one, two, three...up to 10, working toward 20) forward and backward.	
Help your child to measure the length of a shoe using the same sized crayons instead of inches. Then, measure someone else's shoe using the same tool. Did it take more or fewer crayons? Now, have your child measure another object, such as a pencil or a floor tile, using the same sized crayons. Find something else to measure with—like round ended toothpicks, same sized straws or other same sized objects that support length. **Working on:** Developing an understanding of how to measure length and knowing if one item is longer or shorter than another. Prompt your child toward the discovery that shorter objects have less of the item used to measure (fewer crayons) than the longer object (more crayons). Isn't this interesting!	

Getting Ready for **Kindergarten** Mathematics

Develop your child's awareness of the symbols used to represent numbers. Look for numbers (1, 2, 3, etc.) together in where you live and in your neighborhood. Some examples may be on buildings, signs, or other items. **Working on**: Recognizing numerals (1, 2, 3...to at least 10) and discovering the many different ways numbers are used in our world. Four can mean so many different things!	Play a number version of I Spy. For example, "I spy something that has the number five on it," or "I spy something in this room that there are three of." **Working on:** Recognizing numerals and number quantities for 1 to 10 and understanding that numbers can be used in different ways. Sometimes you might use a symbol to show a number quantity; sometimes you might just use the quantity.
Gather empty containers of all sizes and measuring spoons or cups. A coffee scoop, plastic cup, or the scoop from a box of laundry soap can also be used. Have your child use sand in a sandbox, uncooked rice/beans, or water in the sink to measure and compare how much each container can hold. Have your child count and compare the number of scoops or cups it takes to fill each container. Ask, "Which container held the most? Which held the least? Did it take more scoops to fill the container using a teaspoon or using a measuring cup?" **Working on:** Counting, exploring volume (items take up space), and comparing sizes.	When talking with your child, identify things by their shape and size. For example, "Please pass me the *rectangular* placemat, the *largest* box out of the cupboard, the *square-shaped* cracker and the *circular* plate." **Working on:** Developing an understanding of words that describe size (larger, tallest, smallest, smaller, more, less), recognizing shapes in the environment, and naming basic shapes. Coming into Kindergarten, children should know circle, square, triangle and rectangle. Point out many different triangles and rectangles in your environment; name or ask your child to name the shapes.

Adapted and Revised from the Ontario Ministry of Education's *Doing Mathematics with Your Child* and CESME, The University of Chicago Parent Resources.

More digital resources:

Scan QR code or click link:

Washoe County School District Family & Community page

https://www.washoeschools.net/Page/1074

The Math Learning Center: Math at Home

Bedtime Math (5 minutes of math at three different levels including "Wee Ones")

Problem Solving & Reasoning through Coding (code.org)

Helping Your Child Learn Math (English) or Helping Your Child Learn Math (Spanish) Free Book!

Online math tools & manipulatives

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