

Give your child the best start in maths: enjoying everyday maths with children under 3



Playful counting together

counting forwards and back: e.g. *1,2,3, Go! 3,2,1 blast off!* Number rhymes, e.g. *1,2,3,4,5, once I caught a fish alive*

counting objects: in everyday life e.g. getting dressed and undressed *One sock, two socks- two socks altogether!* Eating food: *Three more mouthfuls – one, two, three!* Counting small groups of objects e.g. teddies, blocks, flowers, fruit, cars, dogs

counting actions and sounds: steps, jumps and claps



Talking about and playing with numbers

numbers around us: e.g. on birthday cards, packaging, door numbers, bus numbers, traffic signs

recognising 'how many' without counting (subitising): e.g. *Two dogs*

Sharing and comparing

comparing amounts: e.g. when sharing snacks or toys (*same, more, less, another one*)

comparing and ordering things: e.g. stacking cups, heights, clothes and shoes (*too big, too small, Will it fit?*)

talking about size and weight: e.g. commenting as the child notices or carries things (*big, enormous, giant, small, tiny, long, tall, short, light, heavy*)

talking about time: retelling the child's day e.g. *After breakfast we went to the shops, then we went to the park, then ... (bedtime, yesterday, today, tomorrow, soon, first, then, next, after, fast, slow)*

Playing with shapes

matching and comparing shapes: e.g. shape sorters, inset and simple jigsaw puzzles (*straight, curved, corners, bumpy, round, It fits!*)

building: e.g. boxes, wooden blocks, construction sets e.g. Duplo, (*on top, flat, wobbly*)

Places and spaces

positions: e.g. getting inside boxes, behind curtains, exploring gaps; playing with farms etc.; tidying up (*inside, under, behind, next to*)

routes and directions: e.g. Going through tunnels, playing with cars and trains, describing the way to the park as you go, *under the bridge, going round the corner, crossing the road, (forwards, backwards)*

Pattern spotting

describing and making patterns: e.g. patterns on clothes, fences, pavements; making patterns with leaves, pebbles and shells, patterns in music, rhymes and action songs (*same, different*)

For more ideas see [ECMG Family Postcards](#), [maths picture book lists](#)

