

counting

Say number names in order

"1,2,3 rinse! 1,2,3 splash!"

Bathtime

weight

Talk about how heavy the bath toys are

"This big bucket is heavy!"

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size

Talk about the size of bath toys

"Do you want the big cup or the little cup?"

capacity

Talk about full and empty when filling containers with water

"Fill it up! ... All gone!"



object counting

Count toys, fingers, toes or splashes

"1,2,3,4 cups!"

length and height

Pour water from different heights

"The cup is very high now.
What a long stream of water!"

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position

Point to where things are including under the flaps

“What’s under the here?”

predicting

Pause when reading repeated parts to encourage prediction

“That’s not my ... cat.”

comparison

Point to bigger and smaller things in the pictures

“This one is bigger.”

Sharing a book



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orientation

“This book is upside down. Let’s put it the right way up.”

counting

“1, 2, 3 books and then bed.”

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navigation

Talk about directions and point towards the way to go

“Which way to Grandma’s house?”

position

Talk about position

“Look at the aeroplane. It’s high up in the sky.”



Out and about

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shape

Talk about the shape of objects

“That’s a pointy leaf!”

size

Talk about the size of objects

“That’s a small flower!”

pattern

Spot patterns

“Look, the fence is big, small, big, small, big... small”

numbers

Point out numbers

“Number 8. That’s the same as our house!”

counting

Say the total after counting

“1, 2. There are 2 diggers.”

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counting

"1, 2, 3, 4, 5
blocks. Oh
no! Crash!"

Playing with toys

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counting

Say '1, 2, 3 go' instead
of 'ready steady go'

"1, 2, 3 go! The
car went very
fast!"

shape

Talk about the shape of the toy

"Oh, you have a round one!"

orientation

Turning objects around
to make them fit

"Will it fit? Let's
try it the other
way."

volume

Explore together showing curiosity

"Will they all fit in your
box? Let's see."

weight

Talk about the weight of full and empty
bags and boxes of toys

"That bag looks heavy! Shall
we take some out?"

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comparison

"Everyone needs a plate. Do we need any more?"

Meal times

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shape

"You've got a round cracker and I've got a round cracker."

capacity

"Your cup is very full All gone!"

sharing & counting

"One for you and one for me".

pattern

"Before we come out of your highchair, we always wipe face and hands."

counting

"2 more mouthfuls, 1 ... 2"

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counting

"1, 2, two socks."

Getting dressed

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counting

"1, 2, 3, three poppers.
1 arm in, 2 arms in."

position

"Put your slippers in the basket.
Get your hat out of the bag."

sequence

"Coat on, shoes on, then
we go outside."



size comparison

"This jumper is
too small - we
need to get you a
bigger one."

pattern

"The stripy t-shirt?
Red, blue, red, blue
..."

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counting objects

"1, 2, 3 poppers"

On the changing mat

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orientation

"Ooops, your nappy is upside down."

position

Talk about where where body position

"Let's put your arm inside your sleeve."

size

"These are long socks."

counting & position

Count up or down before picking up putting down

"3, 2, 1, up you come."

spatial awareness

Pointing, touching and moving body

"Where's your nose? Here it is."



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spatial awareness

Provide cardboard boxes / spaces to squeeze into

“There’s not much room in there!”

distance

Put a favourite toy just out of reach

“Nearly... nearly... nearly there! Hooray!”

Floor play



spatial awareness

Play hiding games

“Peekaboo!”

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spatial awareness

Talk about parts of the body in baby massage

“Shoulders, long arms, hands ... and ten little fingers!”

spatial awareness & pattern

Use repeated actions and movements in songs

“Row, row, row your boat”

pattern

Move toys in and out of view in a pattern

“Where’s teddy? Where’s teddy?
Where’s teddy? There they are!”

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verbal counting

Sing number songs

"1,2,3,4,5, Once I caught a fish alive."

counting

Use actions when counting in song

"1, 2, 3 (clap, clap, clap)"

counting actions & spatial awareness

Count movements or actions in song

"1 step, 2 steps, tickle you under there!"

Singing and music



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pattern

Jig, sway, rock or clap to the rhythm when singing

"Dum-de-dum-de-dum-de-dum"

repetition

Repeat songs and actions

"More? Again?"

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counting & measure

Tell a story moving two soft toys to link words with ideas

"1,2. 2 toys. Big and small.
Jump the toys high and
low, near and far, up and
down, fast and slowly."

counting

Slowly move 1 or 2 toys in and out of
a box, showing that you are surprised

"1 in, 1 out"

spatial awareness

Place toys just out of reach

"Stretch out... can you reach it?
Ooo, it's far away."

Floor play

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shape

Have different shaped objects to
grasp and explore. Use words and
gestures to link with objects being
held

"That's square & flat"

measure

Place a small object on a cloth that
babies can pull towards themselves

"It's getting nearer and
nearer and nearer?"

space

Encourage babies to stretch out,
feel and wriggle enjoying a space
on their tummies

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space & measure

Back at home, invite children to touch and lift and help put things away

"Where do the beans go? Will the milk fit in the fridge door?"

counting

Ask how many and count together

"We need 3 apples.
1,2,3. 3 apples"

spatial awareness

Comment on the journey to the shop and when walking around the aisles. Point to show direction, height and distance

"Which way to find yoghurt?"
"Soup is up high"

Shopping trip

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size and shape

"We need a big loaf of bread. Can it fit in the basket? Our basket's really full now."

measure

"Can you hold the strawberries? Oh, are they too heavy?"



size, shape, comparison

Comment on the shape and size of different fruit and vegetables

"These oranges are small...
the mango is bigger."

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