

MATH TIPS FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOLERS

Wondering what your preschoolers should know when it comes to mathematical concepts, and how to help them?

SHAPES AND COLORS-Learning shapes and colors may be a playful event, but it's actually an integral part of the young child's cognitive development and sets the stage for math concepts from sorting and patterning to geometry and beyond!

- The best way to teach preschoolers their colors is to use their environment as a teaching tool.
- For example: yellow banana, red apple, purple shirt, blue toy, etc.
- Add a colorful description-"Bring mommy the red ball."
- Find colorful foods.
- Color your bath time
- Select a color for the day-everyone in the family wears red or eat orange foods for lunch etc.
- Read books about colors-*BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR* ex.

EXPLORING PATTERNS-Patterns are everywhere, from the clothing we wear to the repeating patterns found in nature and everyday routine. Patterning is a basic skill upon which many mathematical concepts are based such as times table, addition, skip counting. For preschoolers identifying and creating patterns is just the beginning to the mastery of life long mathematical skills.

- **Pattern Basics:** a pattern is only a pattern if it is repeated twice. The easiest patterns are those involving two colors (red, blue-red, blue—referred to as AB,AB pattern. Others may be

ABC-ABC, AABB-AABB etc. Give your child the opportunity to read the pattern.

- **IDENTIFYING PATTERNS**-By taking time to notice and identify patterns with your child, he/she will begin to see and identify them as well. Be on the lookout for some patterns as you go through the day: for example, in clothing-stripes, prints and plaids, shoes may have patterns on the soles, patterns in nature such as flower petals, leaves and coats of animals such as tigers and zebras.
- **CREATE AND EXTEND PATTERNS**-provide opportunities for your child to extend a pattern or create one such as when serving crackers or cereal that comes in different colors and shapes. String beads or colored cereal, use blocks or legos or other small toys to create patterns across the room. Use stickers or stamps to make patterns on paper. Create movement patterns as you move across the street, yard or room for example: walk, walk-jump, jump.