

Getting Ready for Kindergarten: Exploring Mathematical Relationships

Mathematics is more than just numbers and counting. Children also need to learn about mathematical relationships such as: size, length, height, volume, weight, order, position, location, movement and distance.

Here are some ways to help your child learn about mathematical relationships.

Exploring mathematical relationships supports the following Lincoln County Schools kindergarten readiness skills:

- I can compare objects using words like: bigger, longer, taller, heavier, etc...
- I can explain where things are using words like: up, under, and beside.
- I can identify "first" and "last" in a row or line.

Talk about size, length, height, volume and weight.

Use mathematical language when your child is playing. For example:

- "You found three leaves. This one's the *smallest*, this one's a bit *bigger*, and this one is the *biggest!*"
- "I see you used two *short* blocks. Would you like one of these *longer* blocks?"
- "That's a pretty garden. See how they put the *short* flowers in front and the *tall* ones in back?"

Involve your child in activities that involve comparing and measuring such as:

- Cut a piece of string that is as tall as your child. Encourage your child to use the string to find things that are the *same length, longer, taller, shorter*, etc.
- Offer non-breakable containers and measuring cups to play with in the sink or bathtub. Encourage your child explore and compare *how much* water it takes to fill different containers.
- Find or make a simple balance scale. Help your child explore what happens when putting different types or amounts of items on each side of the scale.

Introduce words related to order, location, position, movement and distance.

Words to talk about with your child:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, next, last • On, off • Over, under • In, out, • Up, down | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Above, below • Behind, beside • Forward, backward • Toward, away • Near, far |
|---|--|

Try using the words when your child is:

- Playing outdoors or at a playground
- Helping to set the table
- Playing with toys

Try creating an obstacle course for your child. Look for things your child can go over, under, around, through, behind, etc.

Examples of things you could say:

- "First you went *up* the ladder, *next* you went *across* the platform, and *last* you went *down* the slide!"
- "Can you climb *over* the log and then crawl *through* the tunnel?"
- "Please put the napkin *beside* the plate."
- "You're driving the truck *forward*, towards that big pile of sand. Now it's going *backward*. Now you're driving it clear across the sandbox – you're taking that sand *far away!*"

