

Top Numeracy Tips for Parents

Grades K-2

- Talk about numbers and count things with your child every day. Try this [fun activity with plastic cups](#) to practice early math skills with your little one.
- [Cooking with your child](#) is great for developing early math skills. Talk to your child about shapes, sizes and quantities while they watch or help you cook. For example, 'I need one large carrot and one small potato' or 'I am cutting our sandwiches in triangles today.'
- [Play 'shops'](#) with things from around the house, using shopping bags, old purses or wallets and real or play money.
- Encourage your child to sort different things by size, shape or color, like blocks, clothing, toys and pegs. Check out Learning Potential for some fun [sorting activities](#) you can try with your little one.
- Playing with [puzzles](#) is another great activity that can help your child develop their math skills.

Grades 3-5

- Help your child see how you use math in everyday life. For example, explore how you use fractions in cooking; percentages while [shopping](#); distance in driving; keeping score in sports games and [telling the time](#).
- Encourage your child to practice the times tables and to solve simple math problems in their head. Try asking them to:
 - work out how many pieces they will need to cut the birthday cake into so that everyone has a slice
 - work out the actual cost of discounted items (e.g. 25% off \$20)
 - figure out when you will arrive at a destination (e.g. "It is 4:15 pm now. It will take us 30 minutes to get home, what time will we arrive?")

If your child is struggling to work it out, suggest they show you on paper or talk you through how they are trying to work it out so you can help them.

- Math is a learned skill that improves with practice. Talk positively about math and encourage your child to practice as much as possible as part of a regular routine.

Sources: <https://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au/parents>