

Family Fun with Math: Numbers in My House

Math learning can happen anytime! Here are a few ideas to help your children see the math all around them.

Why Numbers in My House?

Numbers are everywhere, and the home setting that children are familiar with has already embedded mathematical knowledge naturally. If you have to be stuck at home all day, get your kids up and moving and counting, which could include doors, windows, chairs, rooms, clock, mirrors, or anything that the kid is interested in.

Try it Out: Number Hunting

- Ask your child what items to do number hunting, or decide them together
- Give your child a piece of paper or board, and marker or pencil to record numbers
- Go around, count up every single item in each category, and record the numbers.

Talk about It:

- Here are some questions to ask your child:
 - What did you have the most of? What did you have the least of?
 - What is the difference between the amount of [doors] you have and the amount of [windows] you have? You could encourage the child to either compare the numbers simply or write down the equation based on the current math level.
- Talk about why you have different numbers of items in your house? This could let your kid make connections between numbers and real-life experiences. For example, why we have more chairs than rooms? Why we only have one clock?
- Play “A map of my house”
 - Use a piece of paper and draw an empty house.
 - Encourage the kid to draw the same number of items to fill the house. Or they could stick pictures of different items to the paper.

Make it Work for Your Child:

- Reduce the category if it is too much, or just explore in one specific room.
- Use visuals to illustrate the item category.
- Count the numbers with your child together and write/draw/show your achievements in various formats. Or you could lightly write the numbers and let the child trace it.

Make it Work for Your Family:

- How could older or younger siblings participate?
 - For younger siblings, they could do an easy item-match or recognize different numbers. For older siblings, they could use some strategies when counting, such as tally mark, or make equations when comparing numbers.
- How could the whole family play together?
 - A guessing game: everyone thinks one category that would have the most items in your house and start to prove your idea by counting and sharing your findings with family members together! If possible, the counting could happen in other places outside the house.