

# MATH

Math activities focus on the areas of number recognition, counting, quantity, spatial reasoning, and sorting by characteristics. Any activities that practice these skills will build mathematic reasoning.

Use shaving cream (or sugar free Cool Whip) on a baking tray as a fun alternative to paper. Draw numbers or pictures using fingers, forks or sticks.	During snack time, create patterns or shapes with your child using their snack food.	Have a shape of the day and look for it wherever you go.	Have a math-based game night! Games like Monopoly, Sorry, or Hi Ho! Cherry-O all involve counting. Candy Land works on colors.
Have your child match fun patterned socks by pattern and color! *Bonus: have them count the number of pairs they make.	Make a trail mix, count scoops of favorite treats, and shake it up! Or do it in reverse and ask them to sort the items.	Use a visual support to help your child pack outfits for a family vacation, or even just for the day. Matching a single top to a single bottom builds one to one correspondence, an important skill.	Count the seeds in a slice of watermelon.
Have your child help you with dinner. It may take a little more time, but you can work on all kinds of measurement techniques (volume, length, fractions).	When you're in the car set a color of the day. Have your child make a tally mark for each car of that color they see.	Practice fractions by cutting a circle of watermelon then cutting it into a number of pieces, much like you would a pizza. (Or just have your child count the number of slices.)	Practice odd and even numbers by putting items in pairs. If there's one left over, the number is odd.
Use real or play money to practice creating a dollar. If your child needs additional support, create a money mat by tracing around coins.	Make a trip to the store and have your child count the cash to make a purchase themselves. You can also pre-plan by looking online (don't forget tax).	Visit <a href="http://SpecialNeedsForSpecialKids.org">SpecialNeedsForSpecialKids.org</a> and access a free library of activities and resources.	Practice weighing items on a bathroom or kitchen scale.
Use cookie cutters to create shapes in play dough (or cookie dough, yum!).	If your child isn't quite ready to count money on their own, offer two different amounts and ask which is correct.	Practice packing a suitcase. Let your child figure out the best way to fit everything into the space.	As your child is helping clean up their toys, work on positioning words. (That book goes on the shelf. This truck goes under the bed. Etc.)