



Meaningful Math

There is more to math than knowing your numbers!

Young children see the world very concretely. Children come to understand math symbols and their meaning through direct experience with...

“ The Real Thing”.



The world of math is filled with symbols. Selected manipulative and a carefully planned environment fosters thinking, security and the development of mathematical concepts.

Be sure to involve....

Discussion

Manipulatives &

Time for investigation!

Your child can realize that doing mathematics is a common human activity when they are engaged in relevant activities that promote....

Sorting
Analyzing
Classifying
Comparing
These types of

developmental skills can be nurtured through direct investigation with....

- Manipulative Water Play
- Blocks Building Art materials
- Sand Play Dramatic Materials
- Cooking Activities and with....

Household Materials
Sorting...

Let your child help you...

Sort the laundry

Sort the silverware in the drawer

Sort their shirts, stripes, prints, solids

Analyzing...

Let your child clean out your tupperware and plastic tub cupboard.

Challenge him/her to find as many ways as he/she can to:

Stack

them by size inside one another.

Rearrange

them in the cupboard differently.

Ask your child:

- ☞ Why some of the tubs don't fit?
- ☞ Is there a better way to store them?
- ☞ Can you think of other things around the house that stack inside each other?

Classifying...

Your canned good cupboard is a wonderful classroom!

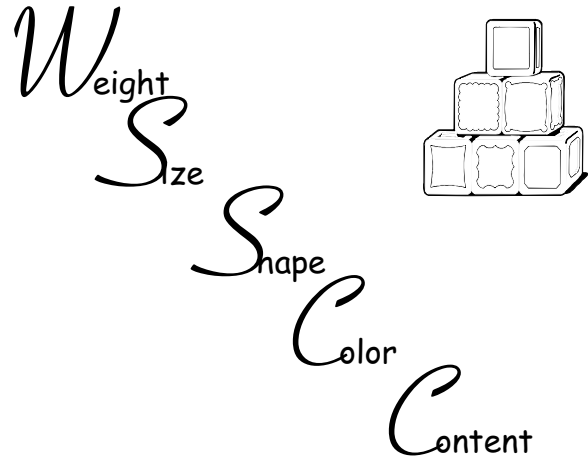


Tell your child the following:

- ☞ "Here are some cans.
- ☞ I bet you can read some of the labels.
- ☞ I bet you can tell me the colors of the labels.
- ☞ I bet you can even tell by the pictures what is inside the can!
- ☞ You put these in groups. You can group them any way you want.
- ☞ When you are done I have to guess how you grouped them. Then it will be my turn"

Comparing...

Using the same cans, they can compare...



So...the next time your child comes home from school and you ask...

"What did you do today in school" and your child says....

"Oh, nothing....we just played"

Remember.....play is a relevant activity for young children and a great avenue for learning about the world of

For more information contact: _____ mathematics!



The Center for Parent Involvement (FCPI) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education; Goals 2000, Educate America Act from 1994-1999. Guided by an advisory board of parents and professionals, the FCPI's goal was to tap the power of parents.

The FCPI gathered information on parent needs, coordinated the information, and created a series of resources organized by theme, including fact sheets for parents and professionals, "Beyond the Basics" resources, and resource identification lists. Many of the resources have been translated into Spanish language versions, and every effort has been made to preserve the meaning and flavor of the original English documents. This series of materials provides a wealth of current information for both parents and providers; the complete set of resources can be obtained in PDF format on the Department of Child and Family Studies Website at www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi. The staff of the FCPI are hopeful that their work will continue to help children get ready to learn for many years to come.

The series' themes include:

- Family Empowerment
- Parent Involvement
- Parenting Support
- School Readiness
- Violence in the Lives of Children
- Transition to Kindergarten

The Center was one component of a project led by Hillsborough County Center of Excellence in collaboration with the Department of Child & Family Studies at USF's de la Parte Institute and the Florida Children's Forum. Other project partners include HIPPIY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters), Hillsborough County Head Start and Hillsborough County Even Start. For more information about these projects, call 813.974.4612.

School Readiness Series, Parent Tip Sheets, #20: Meaningful Math.

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