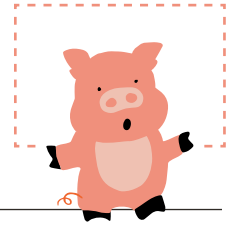


LET'S TALK ABOUT MATH



EVERYDAY FUN WITH SPATIAL AWARENESS

Research finds that having a strong foundation in early math can lead to higher achievement in both math and reading later in school. Starting from birth, babies begin to develop spatial awareness as they observe and interact with the world around them. Spatial awareness is the child's ability to notice and understand spatial relations—the position of objects and people in relation to other things. You can help your child develop spatial awareness by using language that describes how objects fit and move in relation to one another.

From birth to five, children develop spatial relations skills as they explore and learn to talk about:

- Shape and size—noticing, describing and comparing shapes and sizes of objects.
- Space and position—recognizing where a person or object is in relation to other people and objects, understanding concepts like “on top of” or “under,” and putting objects together in different ways.
- Direction and movement—following and predicting the path of a moving object, like a rolling ball.

It's fun and easy to help your child learn spatial awareness skills as you talk, play, and explore together. When you describe the shape, size, and position of objects as your child plays, you help him learn these important concepts.

HAVE FUN WITH MATH: PLAYFUL PARENT-CHILD PLAY SPATIAL AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

0-12 MONTHS

When you move your baby from one position or place to another, put words to your actions. Say “up, up, up” when you lift your baby from the changing table, crib, or floor. When you place her down, say “now down you go to play!”

12- 24 MONTHS

Make an obstacle course for your baby with pillows to climb over and to sit on. As your baby explores the course, describe her position in words: “Now you're sitting on top of the cushion!” “Now you're crawling over it.” “You went around it!”

24-36 MONTHS

Give your toddler a large cardboard box to climb inside and outside. Describe his position as he plays. Provide empty boxes or kitchen containers of various sizes for your child to stack or place inside of, next to, or behind the larger box or each other.

3-5 YEARS

Invite your preschooler to help with the laundry by guiding him to retrieve the shirt that is farthest away in the pile and also the one that is closest to him. As you fold, ask him to make piles of the clothes and point out which pile is nearest and which pile is farthest.

YOU CAN FIND MORE TIPS LIKE THESE—AS WELL AS VIDEOS, INFORMATION, AND MORE—AT TOOSMALL.ORG/LETS-TALK-ABOUT-MATH OR ZEROTOTHREE.ORG/EARLYMATH.



TALKING IS TEACHING

