

Household Items to Support Math at Home

Shoe Boxes
Cut holes of varying sizes in the lid of a shoe box and have your child place blocks or toys in the holes, while your child experiments with size and shapes.

Plastic Containers
Fill plastic containers (cups or Tupperware) of different sizes with water or sand. Do this in the sink, bath, outside, or in the sandbox. Your child can compare weight, size, and volume using comparison and measurement.



Egg Carton Sorting
Egg cartons can be used to help sort items. Make sure the items are large enough so they are not a choking hazard. Collect items in the home or from a walk and sort by item, size, shape, or color while counting. This develops patterning, measurement, comparison, shape recognition, and counting.



Everyday Items
You can use a variety of items for your child to sort, count, or explore shape and size. Place toys in a paper bag. Use math words like, "Can you place 1 ball in the bag?" This promotes number concepts, measurement, and shape recognition.

Wooden Spoons
Use items such as wooden spoons to explore object qualities. Line them in order based on length or weight so that your child uses measurement and comparison.



Create a Tunnel
Cut a large cardboard box to create a small tunnel for your child to crawl through or around. Use spatial words (through, inside, etc.) to build spatial awareness.

Nesting Cups and Items
Cups of different sizes make great nesting items to stack in order of size. Other items such as Tupperware or boxes may be used as well. Nesting promotes shape recognition, patterning, and measurement.

Laundry
Have your child help sort the laundry by color or by item. Compare the sizes of the items and use math talk. "Can you find two socks that look alike?" or "These towels are bigger than those" to promote patterning, measurement, and number concepts.

