

Being numerate

Mathematical ideas are everywhere!

You can help your child to notice and talk about things that are around them. They will soon develop confidence in using numeracy in their daily life.

- » Play with your child.
- » Play games and sing with your child.
- » Enjoy outings, stories and household tasks together.
- » Use mathematical language and share you thinking with your child. Questions help them think mathematically:
 - » How many bananas do we need for the family?
 - » Will the food fit in this box?
 - » Which cup has more?
 - » Which puddle is the biggest?
 - » Is the balloon heavy or light, near or far away?

You will be helping your child to build a positive attitude towards numeracy and use mathematical thinking.

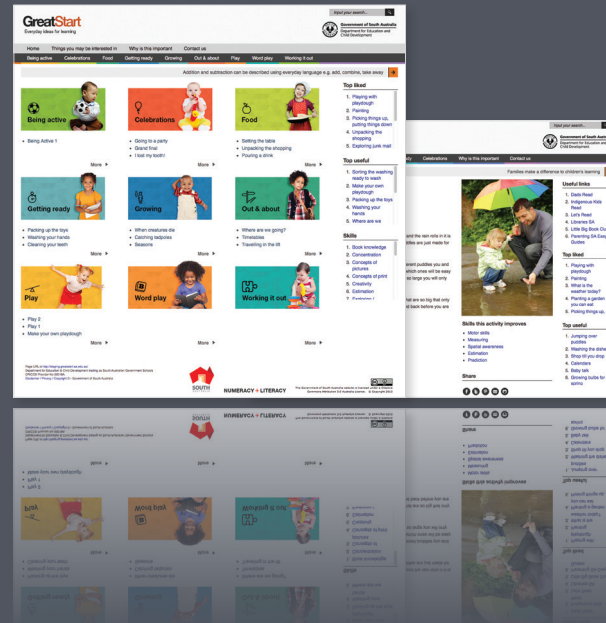


More information

Visit us for more information on how to develop your child's numeracy skills.

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Everyday learning for numeracy and literacy

Being numerate



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a website for families with young children, from birth to five years of age.



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and Child Development



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Exploring and developing numeracy for...

Babies

From the time a baby is born they are exploring their world numerically and using mathematical thinking.

As they crawl and move their arms and legs they are exploring the space around them. When a baby moves towards an object or tries to fit between things, they are making mathematical decisions.

There are many things you can do at home to encourage numeracy learning.

- » Play games where things appear and disappear, like peekaboo.
- » Add a variety of containers to the bath for your baby to play with. They can fill, pour and empty them.
- » Set up mobiles and hanging objects for your baby to reach for, move towards and pull.
- » Sing songs that use language about position and direction, like Open shut them; Round and Round the Garden.
- » Set up an obstacle course for your baby to climb over, through and under.
- » Have containers and objects that can be stacked and packed inside of each other.
- » Help them to notice and wonder through pointing to things on a walk or in picture books.

For more ideas, take a look at these GreatStart activities.

- » Playing with balls
- » Jumping over puddles
- » Playing with playdough
- » I spy with my little eye
- » Rolling down the hill
- » Baby obstacle course.



Toddlers (2-3 yrs)

During this time your toddler's brain is growing rapidly. As they play, touch and explore, new pathways are formed in their brain.

Your toddler will be recognising and making connections to different mathematical ideas, patterns and ways to describe what they are doing. They will start to use mathematical language to describe what they are thinking and noticing.

There are many things you can do at home to encourage numeracy learning.

- » Take a trip to the park and talk about the different ways you can move; going over, under, through, high, low, up, down.
- » Gather natural materials for sorting such as shells, sticks, stones or leaves.
- » Provide them with sand or mud play to help them explore the size, weight and number of mud cakes and depth of holes.
- » Ask your child to help with the washing, matching pairs of socks or pegging up the clothes.
- » Get them to help with the shopping, finding ingredients on the shelf or two of something.
- » Talk about the time of day and when things will happen.
- » Encourage them to build and stack things to explore size, shape, direction number and space.

For more ideas, take a look at these GreatStart activities.

- » We went walking
- » Collections
- » Watering the garden
- » Make sandwiches and cook together
- » Fun dance party
- » Setting the table.



Preschoolers (3-5 yrs)

During this time your preschooler's brain is undergoing significant developmental change. This happens as they begin to connect their own ideas and understanding with others.

As your preschooler plays with others they are learning that there are many ways to solve a problem and that mathematics can often help.

When playing and collaborating with other children your child will be hearing and using complex mathematical language when they describe what they have noticed, possible solutions or how to sort and group items.

There are many things you can do at home to encourage numeracy learning.

- » Think out loud so your child can hear your problem solving.
- » Read the junk mail together. Go on a hunt for items that are the same price.
- » When you are out and about with your child use mathematical language. Count how many bus stops you have passed, predict how long it will take or what direction the bus will travel.
- » Make a map of your back yard/ playground and go on a treasure hunt.

For more ideas, take a look at these GreatStart activities.

- » How tall am I?
- » Where should we park?
- » Calendars
- » What is the weather today?
- » What's the time, Mr Wolf?
- » How many do you think are in there?

