

Being numerate involves a lot more than knowing mathematical facts. You need to be able to notice, think and talk about mathematical ideas.

Numeracy is the capacity, confidence and disposition to use mathematics in daily life.

Numeracy happens everywhere.

Numeracy is different from literacy.

Numeracy is more than counting and numbers.

Numeracy is more than school mathematics.

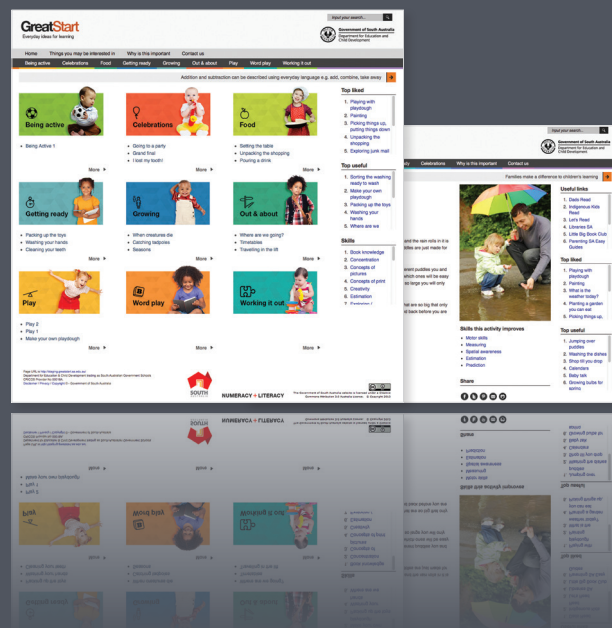


More information

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

www.greatstart.sa.edu.au

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GreatStart

Everyday learning for numeracy and literacy

What is numeracy?



www.greatstart.sa.edu.au

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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The everyday activities you do at home can help with numeracy development.

We can help children notice and wonder about what is around them.

- » We use mathematics and numeracy every day in some way.
- » Your child is doing numerate thinking as they play and explore the world.
- » Hands-on experiences with real objects help children build understanding.
- » Conversation and games help grow children's language.
- » Your child starts to learn about numeracy and mathematics long before they start school.
- » Building early numeracy skills and a positive attitude towards mathematics is just as important as reading to your child every day.



Why is numeracy important?

Mathematical thinking and numeracy is present in all areas of our lives and is essential to developing a deeper understanding of the world around us.

Numeracy helps us to make choices, solve problems, understand patterns and respond to day-to-day challenges.

The first five years of life matter

Children are born ready to learn and their brain develops through use. There is scientific evidence that from the time a child is born, they are engaging with maths and numeracy (Numer, 2013; MCEECDYA, 2010).

The first years of life are the foundation for all later growth, development and learning. By the time a child is three years old, 85% of their brain has developed.

If your child enjoys playing with and exploring mathematical ideas as part of their day, they will have the confidence to try mathematics at school.

Families make a difference

The everyday activities you do at home can help with numeracy development. It happens in the conversations you have, the games you play and the way you are involved in their experiences.

- » Use mathematical thinking and problem solving in your daily life and your child will be learning to take risks, create new solutions and solve problems.
- » Show your child you are using maths and numeracy and they are likely to as well.

There are many things you can do to encourage numeracy learning

- » Talk about those times when you are using numeracy and mathematical thinking in your job and other real life situations. You can do this when cooking, reading a map or a maps app, doing the shopping, reading junk mail or going for a walk.
- » Encourage questions and use mathematical-language- more, less, the same amount, half (a cup, moon) and position of things, up, down, over, under.
- » Play hands on games that use numeracy and mathematical thinking like card games, board games and memory games.
- » Encourage your child to help with household tasks such as setting the table, packing their bag for kindy, pouring a drink or helping with the washing up.
- » Read books together and comment on mathematical ideas.
- » Cook with your child and point out the different measurements used in the recipe. As you measure out the ingredients you might use scales to measure the ingredients. You can predict how many cakes you need to feed the family.
- » Talk about the different numeracy tools you use at home. Involve your child when you use a measuring tape, scales, oven timer, the microwave or the TV guide or remote

