

When talking to your child it is important that you use your home language. Your child can learn the English words after they build mathematical understanding.

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.

- » Numeracy is talking about mathematical ideas with real objects.
- » Numeracy is more than counting and numbers.
- » Numeracy is more than school mathematics.
- » Having a positive attitude about numeracy helps your child.

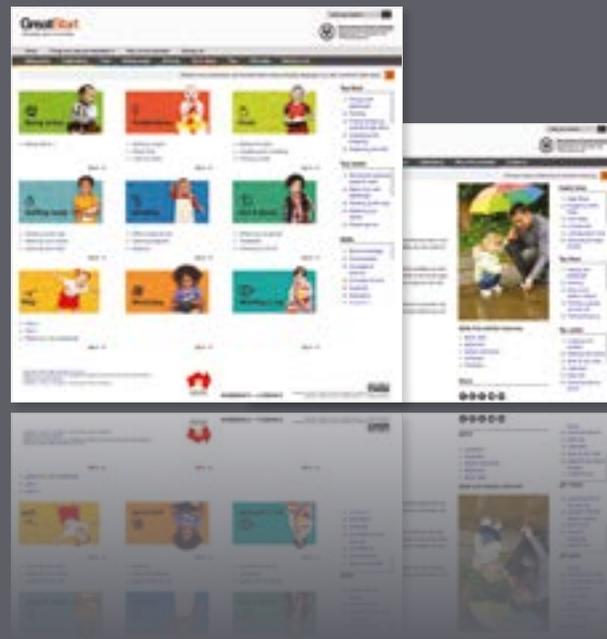


More information

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

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GreatStart

Everyday learning for numeracy and literacy

Numeracy



www.education.sa.gov.au/parenting/greatstart

a website for families with young children, from birth to 5 years of age.



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Numeracy is the ability and confidence to use mathematics in daily life.

You can help your child to build numeracy by noticing and talking mathematically about everyday things around you!

Babies

From the time your baby is born they are exploring their world. They use mathematical thinking as they crawl toward objects or try to fit between things. Saying what they are doing helps them to match words to their movements, like “You are up high,” “Roll over and over,” and “Hide under the rug.”

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 fill, pour with and empty.
- » Hang up interesting objects for your baby to reach for, move towards and pull.
- » Sing songs that use language about position, direction and number like *Open shut them*, *Round and Round the Garden*, *3 Jellyfish* and *5 Little Monkeys*.
- » Set up an obstacle course for your baby to climb over, through and under.
- » Have containers and objects that can be stacked or that fit inside each other.
- » Help your baby to notice and wonder as each of you point to things on a walk or read picture books together.

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

- » [Playing with balls](#)
- » [Jumping over puddles](#)
- » [Moving with maths](#)
- » [I spy with my little eye](#)
- » [Rolling down the hill](#)
- » [Baby obstacle course](#)



Toddlers (2 to 3 yrs)

During this time your toddler’s brain is growing and forming new pathways. By talking with your toddler as they touch and play with real objects you will be helping them make meaning of mathematical ideas. They will soon begin to use mathematical words to describe what they are noticing and doing.

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, high/low, up/down, near/far.
- » Gather natural materials for sorting such as shells, sticks, stones or leaves.
- » Provide your child with water, sand or mud play. They will explore size, weight or number as they make mud cakes and notice depth as they play with holes or puddles.
- » Ask your child to help with the washing to match pairs of socks or find a matching item on a walk.
- » Ask your child to help you with the shopping by finding ingredients on the shelf or getting 2 of something.
- » Talk about the time of day and what things will happen next.
- » Encourage your child 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](#)
- » [Pouring a drink](#)
- » [Friday night dance party](#)
- » [Setting the table](#)



Preschoolers (3 to 5 yrs)

During this time your child’s brain is undergoing great changes. As they play with other children they are hearing and using mathematical words to solve a problem. They may be describing, sorting and comparing which is the biggest or which group has more. When you think ‘out loud’ your child will learn from the way you solve a problem.

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

- » Encourage your child to help set the meal table and measure ingredients in cooking.
- » Have a family time to read books and play board games together.
- » Read advertising material together and hunt for things that are the same.
- » When enjoying a story or movie ask, “What might happen next?”
- » Make a repeating pattern with things you collect on a walk.
- » Notice and wonder about the weather, which puddle is the deepest, where your child’s shadow goes, what is happening to some of the leaves.
- » Make a map of your yard and go on a treasure hunt.
- » Ask a question like, “How many bananas do we need so that everyone in the family can have one?”

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

- » [How tall am I?](#)
- » [Where should we park?](#)
- » [Calendars](#)
- » [What is the weather today?](#)
- » [Planting a seed](#)
- » [How many do you think are in there?](#)

