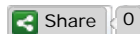
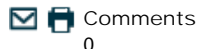


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Ideas for adding math to kids' lives



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Use these ideas to instill math skills in young children at home:

— Create an effective math learning environment. When hanging posters and signs, put them low enough for young children to see them. For infants, rest the posters on the floor.

— Set up estimation games. Place pretzels in a jar and ask a child to guess how many pretzels there are. Afterward, count the pretzels with the child.

— Use puzzles to teach shapes and matching.

— Play sequencing games such as Connect Four and matching games such as Old Maid.

— Let kids organize spoons by size.

— Allow children to create music or other sounds. A baby will learn that by hitting something one time, it makes one sound and by hitting it twice, it makes two sounds.

— Count the stairs as you climb them and the toys as you pick them up. Count kids' fingers and toes after a bath.

— Draw shapes with your children and identify shapes you see around the house and on walks.

Source: Kathleen Sheridan, associate professor in National Louis' National College of Education.

