

BUILDING SKILLS @ HOME



DEVELOPING NUMBER SENSE:

Early math instruction focuses on developing a keen understanding of number sense. Number sense is the ability to think and work flexibly with numbers. It is a deep understanding of individual numbers, their quantities, and how they relate to each other within the our number system.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Children in kindergarten need multiple opportunities to learn and experience numbers. Learning to count, identify number names, and understanding quantity is a few of the important concepts for developing this number sense. Repeated practice with number sense builds understanding and fluency with numbers and is necessary for future and more complex math topics. Parents can help build number sense at home by providing authentic and real-life practice with the following concepts; reading and writing numbers to 20, counting orally to 100, counting objects to 20 and recording the corresponding numeral, and putting numbers in order.

WHAT IS SUBITIZING & A TEN FRAME?

Subitizing is the ability to quickly identify the number of items in a small set without counting. Subitizing helps students create a mental picture and build number sense. You use subitizing when playing with dice. When you roll the number 5, you recognize this quantity by the dot pattern and do not need to count the dots on the dice.

A **ten frame** is a grid of five columns and two rows. It is a structured way to work with numbers within 10. The ten frame is helpful in developing mental- math abilities and helps set a foundation for regrouping and working within the base ten number system.

FUN ACTIVITIES TO TRY:

- Play board or card games together that involve counting, moving a certain number of spaces, or matching numbers. (Candyland, Hi Hi Cherry-O, Chutes and Ladders, Trouble, Sorry, Yahtzee, Uno, etc.)
- Number Bing; buy, print out, or make your own bingo game. Show a number and have your child find the number on their card.
- Button Count: Take a dice and a large pile of buttons (coins, dry beans, or other small objects.) Each player takes turns rolling a dice and taking that many buttons. Play until the pile is gone. The player with the most buttons is the winner.
- Have your child practice counting out loud as high as they can. Our kindergarten goal is to count to 100. Looking for a challenge? Practice skip-counting by 2's, 5's, and 10's.
- Count as you do daily activities with your child; the number of steps to the laundry room, the number of letters or catalogs that come in the mail, how many plates or bowl you will need for setting the table for a family meal.
- Play counting games in the car or as you walk down the street. "Let's count how many dogs we see between home and school." "Let's count how many trucks we can see on the way to the store."
- Have your child practice making the number 0-31 out of play-doh, yarn, pipe cleaners, or legos. Have them practice writing numbers in some sand, sugar, salt, whip cream, or shaving cream.
- Talk about the calendar with your child. Look forward to and countdown special events such as holidays or birthdays. Count the weeks and days until the event, and determine which day it will fall on.
- Write the numbers 0-10 on index cards or paper. Give the cards to your child in a random order, asking your child lay them out in the correct order. Start with 0-10 until they are mastered, then add 11-20.
- Play Concentration: Make two sets of number cards. Have your child find pairs that match.