

GKIDS READINESS PARENT RESOURCES: MATH

This area of learning includes an understanding of shapes and spatial relationships, problem solving, identifying similarities and differences, and basic numeracy concepts. To help support your child with the skills assessed in the GKIDS Readiness Check, watch the [overview video](#) and learn more about each skill by clicking on the skill in the section below.

SORTS AND CLASSIFIES

- Put It Away: When you return from the grocery store, have your child sort items by whether they go in the cabinet, refrigerator, or bathroom.
- Which Lid: Not sure what to do with all the food storage container lids that don't have a match? Have your child sort the lids by color, size, and shape.
- Nature Adventure: Go outside and collect a variety of leaves, rocks, and sticks. Ask your child to group the items that are the same.
- Muffin Tin Sorting: Using a muffin tin, have your child sort household items by shape, size, or color (e.g., buttons, keys, hair barrettes).
- Fun with Coins: Lay out a variety of coins and have your child sort them by an attribute of his choice, such as color, size, or age (e.g., shiny or dull).
- Laundry Helper: Sorting laundry can be fun. Have your child separate clothes into different attribute groups, such as white and colored, light and dark, or winter and summer clothes.

RECOGNIZES SHAPES

- Shape Hunt: Cut out basic paper shapes and place them in a bag. Have your child pull out one shape and name it, then go on a similar shape hunt through the house or yard.
- Shape Stories: Read a shape book with your child, labeling and describing each shape. You could say, "A square has four sides that are the same length." Have her count the sides. As she gets familiar with the shapes, have her describe the shapes to you.
- Snap a Shape: Use your cell phone to take pictures of basic shape items, such as a clock, window, door, or picture frame. Sit down with your child and have him identify each shape.
- Missing Shape: Cut three shapes from newspaper or construction paper and place them in front of your child. Have her close her eyes while you remove one shape. Ask your child to identify the shape that is missing.
- Grocery Shape Search: At the grocery store, ask your child to find items that are triangles, circles, rectangles, and other basic shapes.
- I Spy Shapes: Play the "I Spy" game with shapes, including shapes in the environment. You could say, "I Spy a shape that has four sides. The sides of this shape are all the same length." She might say, "A square . . . the window is a square!"

COUNTS TO 20

- What Comes Next: Have your child fill in the next number when you are counting, "1, 2, 3, 4. . . ." Continue with higher numbers as he is successful.
- Mailbox Run: Have your child count how many seconds or steps it takes for you to run to the mailbox.
- How Many Steps: Count each step aloud as you climb a staircase or walk to your car, encouraging your child to count with you.
- Jump Rope Counting: Have your child count how many jumps she can accomplish when jumping rope.
- Count the Objects: While setting the table for dinner, putting books back on a shelf after reading, or putting toys away in a toy box, have your child count the objects.

COUNTS TO 20 continued

- Hide and Seek: Play hide-and-seek with your child and have him count to 20 while you hide. If needed, your child can start by counting to a lower number, such as 5 or 10.
- Number Rhymes: Nursery rhymes that include numbers are a fun way to practice counting. One example is “One, Two, Buckle My Shoe:” One, two, Buckle my shoe; Three, four, Shut the door; Five, six, Pick up sticks; Seven, eight, Lay them straight; Nine, ten, A big fat hen!
- Math Freeze Tag: Play freeze tag and have your child count to a certain number, such as 5 or 10, before she can “unfreeze.” Increase the number as your child develops her ability to recite numbers.

COUNTS 10 OBJECTS

- Count the Trees: While outside, count the number of trees in your yard, mailboxes in your neighborhood, or windows on the front of your house.
- Number Games: Play number games, such as counting the number of steps, the number of cars you see, or the number of items going in the laundry.
- Calendar Counting: Look at a calendar, and determine the number of days until an upcoming event, such as a birthday, vacation, or the weekend. Point to each calendar square as you count the remaining days.
- Eggcellent Math: Not sure what to do with your empty egg cartons? You can sanitize the carton and write numbers in the bottom. Have your child count out the correct amount of cereal or small crackers into each section. Start with numbers one through five, then continue adding numbers up to 12.
- Line Them Up!: Line up objects, such as toy cars or blocks, and have your child touch or move each object as he counts. You may need to gently guide your child’s hand as he touches and counts, making sure he is connecting one word with one object.
- Grocery Math: At the grocery store, have your child count as she places items in a bag, such as apples, oranges, or other fruits and vegetables.

RECOGNIZES NUMBERS

- Numbers All Around: Take a walk around your neighborhood, and have your child look for numbers on mailboxes, buildings, and license plates. Help your child name the numbers as needed.
- Number Stories: Read stories to your child that include numbers, such as Fish Eyes, How Do Dinosaurs Count to Ten? And Chicka Chicka 1, 2, 3. Encourage your child to point to the numbers as you read the story.
- Matching Numbers: Label paper plates with the numbers one through nine. Pull out the numbers one through nine from a deck of cards, and have your child match the playing card to the paper plate with the same number.
- Egg Hunt with Numbers: Write the numbers zero through nine on plastic eggs, and hide them in your child’s bedroom. Have him hunt for the eggs. Once he finds each egg, have him tell you the number on the egg. This game can also be played outside.
- Phone Fun: Have your child help you dial the phone. Call out the numbers as your child dials.
- Number Jump: Show your child a card with a number written on it. Have your child clap her hands, nod her head, or jump the corresponding number of times.