

# STANDARDS START AT HOME

Using resources from "Standards Start at Home: A Guide to Early Learning for Parents/Families," Illinois Early Learning has created a set of helpful tips and activities meant to help parents understand that the lessons necessary to meet state learning standards begin in the home with their child's first and most influential teachers: their parents



# ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPING FINE MOTOR SKILLS



- Encourage your child to scribble, draw, and "write." Provide different types of paper (plain paper, index cards, cardboard) and writing tools (pencils, crayons, chalk, nontoxic markers, pens).
- Cut with blunt-end safety scissors. Cutting is a complex skill that requires much practice. It is easier to cut Play-Doh, stiff paper or cards, or plastic straws than regular paper.



# ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPING FINE MOTOR SKILLS



- Paint with water, tempera paint, watercolors, or finger paint. Different brush sizes and paper require your child to use different muscles.
- String spools, beads, Cheerios, macaroni, etc., on a shoelace, yarn, or pipe cleaner



# ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPING FINE MOTOR SKILLS



- Play with blocks of various sizes and shapes. Block play enhances muscle control, hand-eye coordination, and perceptual and sensory-motor development.
- Choose puzzles that are easy for your child and then build up to harder ones. Some libraries have puzzles that can be checked out just like books.





# ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPING FINE MOTOR SKILLS



- Sort small objects. Picking out small items such as coins, beads, or pieces of yarn from a tray of sand or salt is a fun "treasure hunt." Supervise to make sure items don't go in the mouth.
- Find things such as sponges, turkey basters, and play dough to squeeze. Squeezing increases hand and finger strength.



# ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPING GROSS MOTOR SKILLS



- Have your child imitate animals, vehicles, or machinery (e.g., hop like a bunny, crawl like a turtle, or move like a car with a flat tire)
- Provide rocking or riding toys at an appropriate height for your child



# ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPING GROSS MOTOR SKILLS



- Try jumping in different directions, over small objects, down from surfaces that are of safe heights, and up onto sturdy surfaces
- Build structures with large, hollow blocks. You can make them with taped-up cereal boxes. Play in sand or dirt. Digging, building a castle, and pushing trucks all build motor skills.



# ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPING GROSS MOTOR SKILLS



- Throw and catch balls and/or beanbags. Have your child throw harder and farther, in different directions, and at targets (e.g., chalk marks, big or little baskets).
- Count together the number of times your child can bounce a ball or jump up and down
- Provide chances for your child to balance on surfaces that are different sizes and heights. Watch closely to prevent falls.





# FINE ARTS ACTIVITIES: STREAMER PLAY



What your child will learn:

- How to participate in the elements of dance, music, and possibly drama; how to describe their creative work or the creative work of others

Materials:

- Streamers, yarn, or old fabric cut into strips; music; player

Instructions:

- Play different types of music (fast, slow, classical, rock, country) and encourage your child to move and dance to the music
- Talk about the similarities and differences in the types of music
- Encourage your child to talk about their favorite music and why they like it



# FINE ARTS ACTIVITIES: TRANSITION SONGS



What your child will learn:

- How to use creative arts for self-expression and self-direction

Materials:

- None

Instructions:

- Use songs to help with difficult transitions
  - Cleanup song: "Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere. Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share."
  - Waiting song: "Wait, wait, wait your turn. Waiting can be fun! Patience, patience, patience, everyone. Waiting can be fun!" (Sing to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")



# FINE ARTS ACTIVITIES: YOUNG DECORATORS



What your child will learn:

- How to paint for self-expression and creativity; how to help around the home

Materials:

- Water-based paints; cleanup equipment

Instructions:

- If you have an old piece of furniture or a little-used area in your home, let your child help decorate it with various colored paints
- Try pressing primary-colored handprints on a white or light blue base, sponge painting white clouds on a blue base, or simply letting your child use their creativity to make a design





# LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITIES: CATCH A RHYME



What your child will learn:

- How to develop phonological awareness by doing rhyming activities; how to recognize separate and repeating sounds in spoken language

Materials:

- A ball or beanbag

Instructions:

- Have your child say any word, then toss a ball or beanbag to you or another player
- You must say a rhyming word as you throw it back
- Continue with the same sounds for several tosses





# LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITIES: PICTURE LABELING



What your child will learn:

- Expressive language; the relationship between written and spoken language; how to describe images

Materials:

- Paper and drawing/writing utensils (markers, crayons, pencils, etc.)

Instructions:

- Ask your child to draw a picture
- Ask the child to tell you about his picture (try not to say what you think it is)
- Write what the child says on the paper to show the link between spoken and written language
- Date the picture (to help review skill progress over time)
- Display the picture with words proudly somewhere at home



# LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITIES: WALK A LETTER



What your child will learn:

- How to identify letters; how to make letter-sound matches

Materials:

- Sidewalk chalk or masking tape

Instructions:

- Make large letters on the sidewalk or driveway using chalk or masking tape
- Have the child walk on the letter and say the letter
- Say the sound the letter makes



# LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITIES: WORD GAMES



What your child will learn:

- Phonological Awareness (sounds); letter-sound matches; how to separate and repeat sounds in a language

Materials:

- None needed. Play these anywhere!

Instructions:

- Play a game listening to the different sounds in words (e.g., map-cap, sat-hat). Do they sound the same? Do they rhyme?
- Listen to the first sound in each word. Repeat and emphasize the sound for the child. Run, road. Box, button.
- Clap the syllables in names or words. Su-san (clap, clap)





# MATH ACTIVITIES: COUNTING BEAN BAGS



What your child will learn:

- Counting; comparisons

Materials:

- Coffee cans or buckets; permanent marker; bean bags (you can make bean bags by putting dry beans in the toe of a large old sock and knotting it tightly); paper and/or tape

Instructions:

- Place a large piece of tape or paper on the can or bucket
- Make dots on the tape or paper and have the child count the dots
- Have them throw that many bean bags into the bucket
- Check them together to see that the number of objects in the bucket matches the number of dots on its outside
- Ask your child which container has more? Which has less?





# MATH ACTIVITIES: SHAPE HUNT



What your child will learn:

- Recognizing geometric shapes and structures in the environment

Materials:

- Four empty toilet paper rolls; tape

Instructions:

- Tape two toilet paper rolls together to make "binoculars." Repeat so you and your child each have one pair.
- Using your binoculars, go on a shape hunt around the house looking for different shapes. For example, a clock is a circle.
- Count how many different shapes you can find. Discuss with your child how many circles or squares you found in the room or in the house.



# MATH ACTIVITIES: SORT THE NOODLES



What your child will learn:

- Sorting; counting skills; classifying

Materials:

- Paper plates; crayons or markers; bag of different-colored dry noodles or macaroni; yarn and string (if using macaroni)

Instructions:

- Label the plates with colors by coloring the plate
- Ask your child to sort the noodles into the right plates; that is, all the green noodles go on the green plate, etc.
- You and your child can count how many green noodles, etc.



# MATH ACTIVITIES: WAITING GAMES



What your child will learn:

- Gathering data about your surroundings; recognizing geometric shapes; recognizing patterns and order

Materials:

- None

Instructions:

- If you have to wait in line in a public place, help your child notice their surroundings
- Count and discuss order (e.g., "we are third in line")
- Look for shapes nearby
- Find simple patterns together (e.g., the colors of floor tiles)





# MATH ACTIVITIES: WATCH ME GROW



What your child will learn:

- Gathering data about themselves; representing data using pictures or graphs; describing qualitative change

Materials:

- Pencil; paper (optional)

Instructions:

- Measure and chart your child's growth by taping up a long piece of paper as a growth chart or just make pencil marks on the inside of a closet door
- Date each mark and compare the growth over time
- Discuss the child's growth using -er words such as "taller"





# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH ACTIVITIES: LET IT RIP (PAPER TEARING)



How it will help your child:

- Develop hand muscles for future writing and cutting

Materials:

- Any type of paper (e.g., construction paper, tissue paper, wrapping paper)
- (Optional) Glue, glue stick, or paste

Instructions:

- Have your child tear the paper. They can tear big pieces, little pieces, skinny pieces, round pieces, square pieces, very small pieces, and long pieces.
- Pick up all the pieces
- (Optional) Have your child glue the pieces onto a large piece of paper or poster board



# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH ACTIVITIES: OBSTACLE COURSE



What your child will learn:

- Large muscle control; following rules when participating in group physical activities

Materials:

- Some of the following items: boxes, ropes, string, chairs, table(s), plastic jugs, yard sticks, objects to jump/crawl over, etc.

Instructions:

- Arrange an obstacle course in a large circle as space allows
- Have your child follow you, the leader, as you move through the course and do what you do. Be creative!
- Try some of the following: step over a box, hop on chalk marks, walk between chairs, jump on masking tape shapes, etc.



# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH ACTIVITIES: SMILING FACES AND HEALTHY TEETH



What your child will learn:

- Independence in caring for personal needs

Materials:

- Mirror; toothbrushes; toothpaste

Instructions:

- Standing in front of a mirror, help your child name and touch all the parts of her mouth: lips, teeth, tongue, and gums
- Ask your child to try to smile without opening her mouth
- Brush your teeth together and share this rhyme: "Even if you're in a rush, don't forget to swish and brush"
- Remember to rinse well
- Smile and show off your clean teeth!





# SCIENCE ACTIVITIES: COLORED CELERY



What your child will learn:

- How to describe information; how to describe observations; how to make comparisons

Materials:

- Celery stalk; one glass; water; red or blue food coloring; scissors or a knife (for adult use only)

Instructions:

- Fill a glass half full with water
- Add 15 drops of food coloring and stir
- The adult should snip off the end of the large celery stalk
- Put the stalk in the water
- Leave the stalk in the water for 48 hours and observe the celery occasionally





# SCIENCE ACTIVITIES: FREEZER FUN



What your child will learn:

- How to collect, describe and record data; become aware of changes in the environment

Materials:

- Paper cups; water; a pen; a freezer

Instructions:

- Fill three or four paper cups with different amounts of water, marking the water level on the outside of each cup
- Put the cups in the freezer
- Check the cups every 15 minutes for an hour. Observe changes. Ask questions such as "Which freezes faster?" "Where is the water compared with the mark on the cup?"



# SCIENCE ACTIVITIES: NATURE TREASURE HUNT



What your child will learn:

- To collect and describe information; to use senses to observe; to make comparisons

Materials:

- Sack or bag

Instructions:

- Go on an outdoor treasure hunt, collecting nature items in a bag
- When you are done, take each item and ask the child to describe it
- Sort and classify the items!



# SCIENCE ACTIVITIES: TASTE TESTING



What your child will learn:

- How to use their senses to explore tastes

Materials:

- Paper and pencil
- A variety of foods: salty, sweet, bitter, crispy, hard

Instructions:

- Put the variety of foods in a bowl or on a tray
- As the child tastes each food, ask her to describe it
- Divide a paper in half; label one side "Likes" and the other side "Dislikes"
- As the child determines likes and dislikes, record the food in the appropriate column, then review the lists together



# SOCIAL/ EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES: PUPPET PLAY



What your child will learn:

- Self-expression; listening skills

Materials:

- Hand puppets. To make your own at home, use a variety of scrap art materials such as socks, aluminum foil, paper bags, mittens, plastic spoons, yarn, markers, buttons.

Instructions:

- Make puppets with one or more of the above materials!
- Put on a puppet show together with your child or take turns watching and listening





# SOCIAL/ EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES: ROLLING WITH LAUGHTER



What your child will learn:

- How to work together to solve problems

Materials:

- No materials needed; allow plenty of space

Instructions:

- You and your child should lie on your backs, arms at your sides, and feet flat against your partner's feet-then roll
- Try several times because practice makes perfect
- Next, try it holding hands instead of touching feet
- Ask your child, "Is it easier or harder this way? Why?"



# SOCIAL STUDIES

## ACTIVITIES: PEOPLE WHO HELP US STAY WELL



What your child will learn:

- Names of health care professionals and what they do in the community; simple practices in caring for personal needs

Materials:

- A stuffed animal or doll; a toy doctor kit or objects from around the house

Instructions:

- Let your child choose a doll or stuffed animal
- Ask the child to pretend the toy has a physical problem, such as a bad cold, a toothache, or an upset stomach
- Ask your child who would help the toy and then allow her to pretend to care for the toy the way that person would (e.g., the dentist for a toothache)



# SOCIAL STUDIES ACTIVITIES: WHICH ROOM IN THE HOUSE?



What your child will learn:

- How to locate objects in the environment

Materials:

- Laundry basket or a box; items from around the house

Instructions:

- Gather common objects from different rooms in the house
- Ask your child to identify each object and in which room it is usually found
- Let the child put the items back where they belong





# TIPS FOR DEVELOPING GOOD HEALTH AND SAFETY PRACTICES



- Sing the alphabet song together while your child washes his hands. It takes 25-30 seconds for soap to kill germs, about the same amount of time the song takes.
- Wash hands before eating, after toileting, and very often when anyone in the family is ill.





# TIPS FOR DEVELOPING GOOD HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES



- Make a game of naming body parts. Discuss what each part does. "Our ears help us hear. What do you hear?"
- Teach your child to cover his coughs and sneezes, with a tissue whenever possible
- Check with your local health department for free resources to help your child learn good health habits



# TIPS FOR DEVELOPING YOUR CHILD'S PREWRITING SKILLS



- Offer your child a variety of writing materials (crayons, pencils, markers, and different sizes and types of paper).
- Label toy containers or other items in the house with words or words with pictures



# TIPS FOR DEVELOPING YOUR CHILD'S PREWRITING SKILLS



- Use interactive reading skills. Point to the words as you read a book to your child, talking about who wrote the book and who drew the pictures.
- Be sure to expose your child to print in his native language and English if another language is spoken at home. Children can learn more than one language at a time.





# TIPS FOR DEVELOPING YOUR CHILD'S PREWRITING SKILLS



- Include "writing" when you play, such as taking orders in a "restaurant," writing pretend telephone messages, and playing "school"
- Put your child's ideas in print. Write down their own words about a picture they drew or make a list of items they want for their birthday.





# TIPS FOR DEVELOPING YOUR CHILD'S SCIENCE SKILLS



- Ask your child questions based on the five senses. What do you smell? Taste? Hear? See? What does it feel like when you touch it?
- Discuss the weather with your child; ask "What is it like outside today?"
- Practice recycling; talk about how it helps our environment. Many local agencies offer free information and activities to help children learn about recycling.



# TIPS FOR DEVELOPING YOUR CHILD'S SCIENCE SKILLS



- Learn about the seasons through family traditions, books, songs, and community activities
- Encourage children to classify different living things. How are dogs and cats similar? How are they different? What animals live in the jungle? What lives in the water?



# TIPS FOR DEVELOPING YOUR CHILD'S SCIENCE SKILLS



- Discuss technology and what it does for us. Use a thermometer to check your temperature. Use a scale to weigh different items.
- Chart your child's growth over time, writing down their height, weight, and the date. Take advantage of the many hands-on children's museums; most offer free days.





# TIPS FOR EXPLORING DRAMA WITH CHILDREN



- Listen to tapes that combine music and stories
- Make puppets out of socks or other household items and put on a play. Some libraries have puppets available to use while you are there.





# TIPS FOR EXPLORING DRAMA WITH CHILDREN



- Read a favorite book together and then act out the parts of the people in the book. Develop a "prop box" with old used hats, jewelry, etc., to encourage dramatic play.
- Larger cities and many universities offer free or low-cost plays or concerts just for children



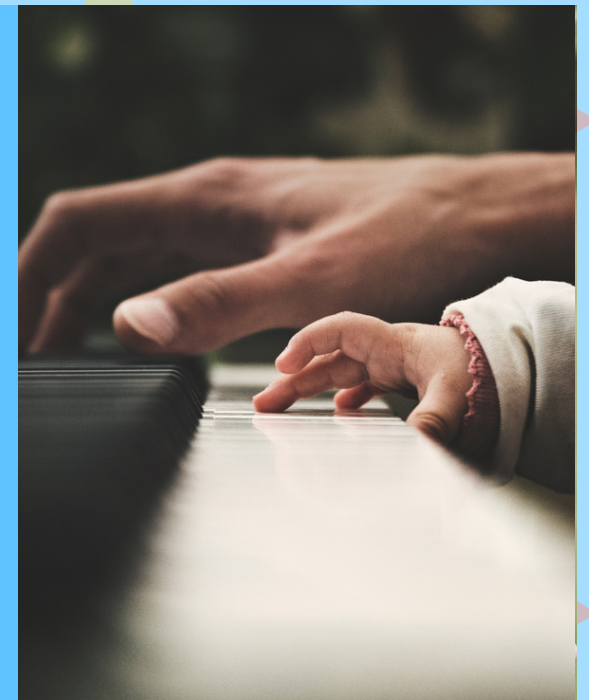
# TIPS FOR EXPLORING MUSIC AND DANCE/ MOVEMENT



- Sing to your child. This is fun and helpful, even if you "can't carry a tune."
- Encourage your child to move or dance along to all types of music
- Provide many types of music, via radio, CDs, or TV. There are many sing-along tapes, CDs, and videos for children. You can check these out at your public library.



# TIPS FOR EXPLORING MUSIC AND DANCE/MOVEMENT



- Public television stations often show ballets, operas, symphony concerts, etc. Sit down with your child and enjoy a show you might not get to see somewhere else.
- Play soothing music at naptime or bedtime
- Play marching music in the morning when getting ready or during cleanup time





# TIPS FOR EXPLORING THE VISUAL ARTS WITH CHILDREN



- Provide different art materials on a regular basis. Many paints, crayons, etc., are found at discount stores. Play-Doh can also be made at home. Remember, there is no "wrong way" to do art.
- Try different ways to do art. If your child usually uses crayons, ask if they would like to use watercolors instead.



# TIPS FOR EXPLORING THE VISUAL ARTS WITH CHILDREN



- Involve your child in cleaning up, which is part of creating art
- Go to children's museums or art museums; many offer free days
- Help your child notice the art in the world around them ("Wow! Those flowers have really bright colors" or "Did you see the painting on this ceiling?")



# TIPS FOR HELPING CHILDREN DEVELOP MOTOR SKILLS



- Keep activities enjoyable and safe! Enthusiasm is more important than skill level.
- Allow your child to do well with one skill before trying a harder one. Provide lots of chances for practice!





# TIPS FOR HELPING CHILDREN DEVELOP MOTOR SKILLS



- Show your child how to do a new skill if they are nervous or have a hard time with it. Don't criticize or constantly correct your child. Mistakes are part of learning.
- Join your child in motor activities as often as possible



# TIPS FOR HELPING CHILDREN DEVELOP MOTOR SKILLS



- Provide opportunities for group physical activities, which help your child learn to follow rules and cooperate with others. Such activities may be available through preschools or day cares, the park district, library, YMCA, parent center, church, or synagogue.
- Remember that it is not good for children to sit still for long periods of time when practicing fine-motor skills



# TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD DEVELOP A HEALTHY SENSE OF SELF



- Encourage your child to describe themselves
- Have your child fill in these blanks!  
When I \_\_\_\_\_ I feel \_\_\_\_\_.
- Use books to explore emotions.  
Ask a librarian for help in finding such books on your child's level.





# TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD DEVELOP A HEALTHY SENSE OF SELF



- Talk about your child's feelings. Don't put your child down for feeling a certain way. (Remember children will react to things in different ways than adults.)
- Be aware of situations that may cause stress for your child, including changes in routine, fears (real or imagined), a new baby, moving, absence of a family member, divorce, remarriage, or death in the family



# TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD DEVELOP A HEALTHY SENSE OF SELF



- Talk about values you care about: caring, cooperation, courage, fairness, honesty, respect, or responsibility
- Make a list of things your child can do by themselves and put it on the refrigerator. Praise your child for trying new things.



# TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN ABOUT SOCIAL STUDIES



- Develop a concept of history by discussing events in your child's recent past ("Remember when we went to Grandma's house?")
- Encourage children to negotiate and compromise when they play together ("OK, I'll let you play with my doll if I can use your book")
- Play "follow the leader" with your child; take turns being the leader





# TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN ABOUT SOCIAL STUDIES



- Teach your child about money and how it is used ("Let's choose the chicken because it is on sale. We'll have enough left to buy some ice cream")
- Teach your child your phone number and address



# TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN SCIENCE OUTDOORS



- Discuss the effects of the elements ("What did the wind do to our leaf pile?")
- Trace your child's shadow on the sidewalk with chalk, then do it again a few hours later. Why is it different? Notice shadows of other objects.
- Let your child have a small area to dig in and see what they can find living in the dirt. Look together at the roots of the grass they dig up.



# TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN SCIENCE OUTDOORS



- Plant flower seeds together in a pot or in the yard and watch them grow. Discuss what the plant needs to survive; observe the plant's parts and how they change.
- "Paint" with water outside, in sun and shade. Which dries faster? What happens to the color of whatever object they "paint"?





# TIPS FOR HELPING CHILDREN DEVELOP LANGUAGE SKILLS



- Talk about things your child likes and ask questions
- Give directions in small parts
- Help them make up words that rhyme, such as "dog, fog, hog, log"



# TIPS FOR HELPING CHILDREN DEVELOP LANGUAGE SKILLS



- Sing the ABC song and other songs that emphasize rhymes, such as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" or "This Old Man"
- Learn a tongue twister together (e.g., Peter Piper picked a peck...)



# TIPS FOR HELPING CHILDREN DEVELOP LANGUAGE SKILLS



- Help your child figure out answers on their own; sometimes you can help them understand something new by reminding them of something they already know
- Encourage your child to talk with others ("Tell Grandma what we did today")





# TIPS FOR LEARNING SCIENCE THROUGH WATER PLAY



Offer items to use in water play, such as strainers, scoopers, measuring cups, corks. (Use whatever you have. For example, if you don't have a strainer, poke holes in a plastic cup. If you don't have cork, use a ping-pong ball or anything that floats.)

- Make comparisons. What floats and what sinks?
- Observe which drains faster, a cup with a hole in the bottom or on the side?
- Experiment with different objects!



# TIPS FOR PROMOTING COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AWARENESS



- Encourage pretend play, such as a grocery store, a beauty/barber shop, or a post office
- Use a map to show your child the street you live on and how to find where you want to go



# TIPS FOR PROMOTING COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AWARENESS



- Have a treasure hunt in the house and/or yard and use a map to help your child find clues. Use pictures and arrows instead of words if the child is not yet reading.
- Teach your child to say hello and goodbye in different languages





# TIPS FOR PROMOTING HEALTHY SOCIALIZATION IN CHILDREN



- Provide times for social interaction and coach your child on how to act. Give positive feedback for good behavior (e.g., "You and Jon are taking turns") and redirect negative behavior (e.g., "You use this blue truck while Jon uses the red one, or else you can do a puzzle until he is finished.")
- Check into free play groups if your child isn't usually with other children their age. Local parent centers, YMCAs, religious groups, or park districts offer play groups.



# TIPS FOR PROMOTING HEALTHY SOCIALIZATION IN CHILDREN



- Role-play sharing and turn-taking with your child during a game of "Let's pretend"
- Help your child transition from one activity to another by singing a song that signals the next activity or setting a timer with a bell ("You and Crystal can play until the bell rings in five minutes, then you need to wash your hands for lunch")



# TIPS FOR RAISING BILINGUAL CHILDREN



- Use your home language. Your child can learn your home language and English.
- Share your culture and family practices with your child's teachers
- Make language learning fun and natural
- Provide many different language experiences in each language, including music, drama, and other activities





# TIPS FOR RAISING BILINGUAL CHILDREN



- Provide books, DVDs, and games in your home language to promote learning more words
- Engage in conversations with your child about special topics of interest to them
- Be patient if one or both languages develop more slowly than other children who have only one language. This is common, and most children catch up by third grade



# TIPS FOR RAISING BILINGUAL CHILDREN



- Make sure your child knows if they are expected to speak a certain language to a certain person, in a certain place, or at certain times
- Find other people who speak your native language, as well as other resources, by using the Internet and/or your public library



# TIPS FOR READING WITH YOUR CHILD



- Read with your child often! Offer a variety of books (use your local library).
- Run your finger along the words so they see you are reading from left to right





# TIPS FOR READING WITH YOUR CHILD



- When reading, stop and ask, "What do you think will happen next?" Help them predict what will happen next using the pictures or what's being read to them.
- Encourage your child to "read" a favorite story from memory. Have your child make up a story to go with the pictures.



# TIPS FOR READING WITH YOUR CHILD



- Ask simple questions about what the child read (or heard being read)
- Make sure your child sees you reading books, mail, etc. This helps them know that reading is important to you.



# TIPS FOR READING WITH YOUR CHILD



- Give your child foam or magnetic letters so they can hold and touch them. Name the letters for them as they play.
- Encourage your child to "read" familiar signs, such as STOP





# TIPS FOR TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT PATTERNING AND SEQUENCING



- Provide open-ended materials, such as blocks, Legos, beads, or dry macaroni to encourage your child to explore and create patterns
- Play rhythm games with claps, snaps, and pats



# TIPS FOR TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT PATTERNING AND SEQUENCING



- Collect pairs of similar but different objects, then describe (e.g., "this book is bigger")
- Use everyday items (shoes, cans, rocks, etc.) and put them in order from smallest to largest



# TIPS FOR TEACHING CHILDREN HOW TO CLASSIFY



- Match and sort real objects first. When that becomes easy, use pictures of objects.
- Collect interesting things (shells, rocks, leaves, etc.). Talk about how objects are alike and how they are different.
- Classify stuffed animals by movement (hop vs. swim) or home (farm vs. jungle). Have your child help you sort the laundry or match the socks into pairs.





# TIPS FOR TEACHING YOUR CHILD ABOUT MEASUREMENT AND TIME



- Discuss weights of various foods when putting away groceries. The watermelon is heavy, but the popcorn is light.
- Let your child put spoons or bowls in order of size or nest and stack them
- Talk about how many teaspoons or cups of a certain item are needed in a recipe



# TIPS FOR TEACHING YOUR CHILD ABOUT MEASUREMENT AND TIME



- See how many cups of water it takes to fill a bowl
- Help your child learn about time by using time words, such as "*yesterday* we went to the park; we will go to the store *after* lunch"
- Ask questions to help your child estimate or measure as they play. "How many blocks do you think it will take to make your road reach the wall?" or "Will it take more rocks to fill up the bucket or the basket?"



# TIPS FOR TEACHING YOUR CHILD ABOUT NUMBERS

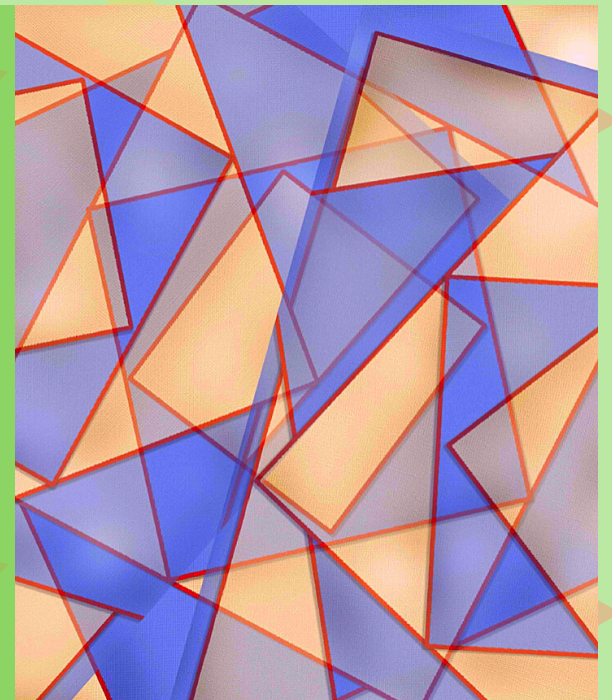


- Be positive. Your attitude about math will help your child.
- Count out loud as you climb steps, button clothes, stack books, etc. Use counting books with your child.
- Sing songs or say rhymes that include numbers (e.g., one, two, buckle my shoe)





# TIPS FOR TEACHING YOUR CHILD ABOUT SHAPES



- Provide solid objects that represent shapes for your child to play with. For example, note that cans are cylinders, balls are spheres, and some blocks are cubes.
- Help your child trace around solid objects to see how they look on paper
- Talk about the location of objects. Use words such as "on," "under," "near," and "inside" to describe where you see shapes.

