



Storytelling Math celebrates children using math in their daily adventures as they play, build, and discover the world around them. Joyful stories and hands-on activities make it easy for kids and their grown-ups to explore everyday math together.

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Again, Essie?

Math activities by Marlene Kliman, TERC



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About the Book

Rafael's little sister, Essie, just won't leave him alone! To protect his toys, Rafael decides to build a wall. He gathers boxes and bins of different sizes and shapes and figures out how to fit them together just right. But will his wall keep Essie out?

About the Math

As Rafael constructs his wall, he finds that size and shape matter: some items stack easily, some topple over, and some roll away. He also discovers ways to fit objects together with no gaps. He ends up with a wall that seems perfect, but Essie still finds a way in—and Rafael realizes that playing together is better after all.

As children build with objects of different sizes and shapes, they explore 3-D geometry and spatial relationships. They gain hands-on understanding of important concepts in math, science, and engineering. Encourage children to talk through their ideas. Building walls and taking them apart can be cooperative, creative, and mathematical!

Teresa Lara-Meloy
Senior Math Education Designer, TERC

About the Author

Jenny Lacika grew up learning to work with her two brothers. She now lives with her husband and two kids in Santa Fe, New Mexico. This is her first book. www.jennylacika.com

About the Illustrator

Teresa Martínez is the illustrator of *Mario and the Hole in the Sky: How a Chemist Saved Our Planet* and many other books. She lives in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. www.teresa-mtz.com



Again, Essie?

Math Activities

Explore geometry and spatial sense with these activities!



Secret Shape

Sharpen geometry skills with a game based on Twenty Questions. Lay out five to ten boxes and containers of different sizes and shapes. One person secretly chooses a box or container. The others ask yes-no questions to rule out as many objects as possible. For example, a guesser might ask, "Does it have six sides?" If the answer is no, the first person removes all the objects with six sides. Keep going until only the secret selection remains.

My Hideaway

Invite children to use objects to block off a hideaway, just like Rafael does. As they build, suggest they look for things the right size and shape to fill the spaces. Remind them to leave an exit!



Tallest Tower

Gather six boxes of different sizes and ask children to use them to build the tallest tower possible. Talk together: "Is there a way to turn any of the boxes to make the tower even taller?" If you like, knock down the tower together! Now ask children to stack the same boxes to build the shortest possible tower.