



Chapter 5

Numeracy

Early positive experiences in mathematics set the stage for your children to develop confidence in mathematics and hopefully, love for this subject. To help our children make the connection between numeracy and the real world, weave math into their daily life and play so that they can see math being used in real life contexts. The ten hands-on activities in this section are great for children to explore numeracy concepts and skills through fun games and meaningful applications.

In **Missing Number Hunt**, siblings play a fun game to find the missing numbers and complete their number sequences. **Toys in a Pillowcase** is another amazing activity for children to practise estimation and counting. The best part of this activity? Almost no preparation is needed. The **Numbered Grid** activity combines gross motor skills and numeracy and is our absolute favorite family activity.

Are you ready for some number fun? One, two, three. Let's go!

Ultimate Shape Hunt

In this collaborative shape hunt activity, siblings work together to search for and color code different basic shapes.

Prep time

10 mins

Clean-up time

1 min

Materials

- A huge piece of paper
- Markers in five different colors
- A black marker
- [Shape Hunt Table printable](#)
- [Shape Hunt Graph printable](#)
- Sticky notes or bottle caps

How to set up this activity for preschoolers

- Using the black marker, draw small circles, hearts, squares, rectangles, and triangles all over the paper.
- Task every child to find a shape and color the same shape in one color.
- After all the shapes are color coded, invite your preschooler to count the shapes and record the numbers in the Shape Hunt Table printable. For younger preschoolers, count along with them and provide help as they write the numbers.
- Extend the activity by inviting your preschooler to draw lines to connect the same shapes.



How to simplify this activity for toddlers

- Toddlers can join their older siblings to find and color/circle/point out a shape.
- After all the shapes are color coded, extend the activity by inviting your toddler to find and cover all of the shapes that you call out with bottle caps.



How to extend this activity for school-aged kids

- After all the shapes are color coded, invite your big kid to count the shapes and record the data in the Shape Hunt Graph printable.

- Invite your big kid to practise his addition and subtraction by giving him challenges like, “Add the number of circles and squares” or “Subtract the number of triangles from the number of hearts.”
- Or, add more complicated shapes, e.g., pentagons, hexagons, semi-circles, and quarter-circles for your big kid to find and color.



Variation for everyone

Draw the shapes on sticky notes and stick them all over the house.

Assign each child to find all the sticky notes with a particular shape.