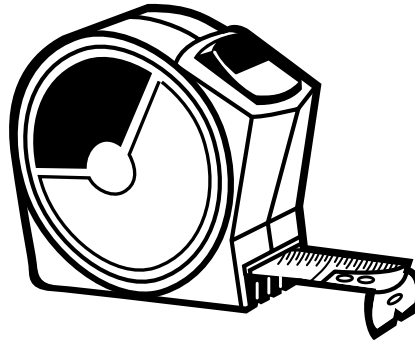




Number Games

Children learn a lot from playing. Some adults think that they have to use worksheets or flashcards to teach children their numbers. That's not the case. Try some of these fun games to teach children about numbers and math.



NUMBER HUNT

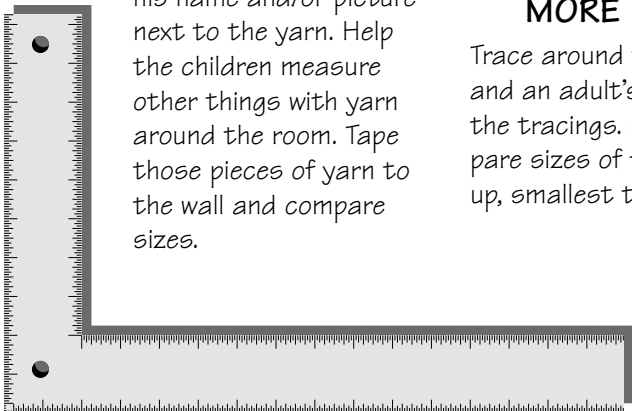
Make a list of different things around the room or house, such as chairs, pencils, paintbrushes, or books. Have the children go on a hunt and see how many they can count.

You may want to make a chart with pictures of the things the children are to find. Write the number found beside the picture.

MEASURING WALL

At the top of the wall, hang a sign that reads, "How Tall Are You?" Measure each child with a piece of yarn and hang it to the wall with

his name and/or picture next to the yarn. Help the children measure other things with yarn around the room. Tape those pieces of yarn to the wall and compare sizes.



MEASURING

Put measuring tools, such as a tape measure, six-inch ruler, twelve-inch ruler, sewing gauge, yardstick, etc. out for the children to use to measure tables, equipment, and spaces in the child care area.

FOOTPRINTS

Trace around the children's feet, with one foot per page. Write numbers, one through ten, on each of the traced feet. Have the children arrange the numbered feet in order, like footprints across the floor.

MORE FOOTPRINTS

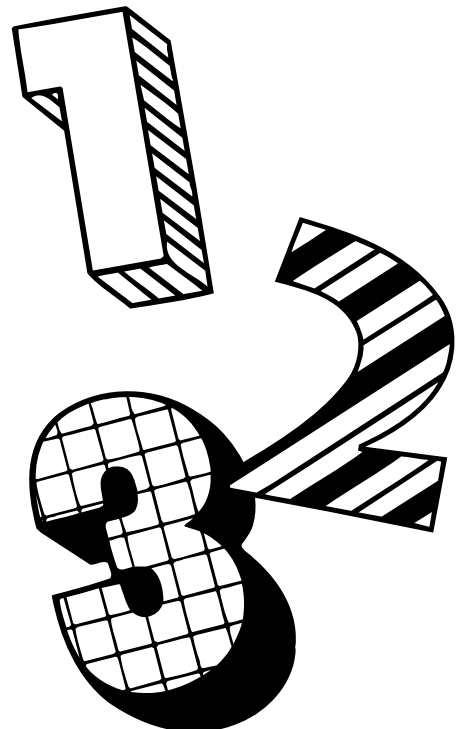
Trace around the children's feet and an adult's feet. Cut around the tracings. Let the children compare sizes of footprints. Line them up, smallest to biggest.

MEASURING WALK

When you're out on a walk, have the children guess how many steps it will take to get to the next tree, house, or to the corner. Then walk it, counting how many steps it took to get there.

NUMBER JUMP

Write the numbers one through ten on papers, with one number on a page. Tape the papers to the floor, two to three feet apart. Have the children jump from paper to paper, starting with number one and ending with number ten.



NUMBER CLUES

Send the children on a hunt. Begin by hiding something. Give the children clues with numbers to guide their hunt. For example, tell them to take four steps to the chair, turn and take five steps into the playroom, two steps toward the bookshelf, etc.

SORTING GAMES*

Collect rocks or other sorting materials such as buttons, twigs, beads, lids, dry macaroni, etc. Give the children three shoe boxes or plastic bowls for them to sort the rocks by size, small, medium, and large.

** Young children can choke on small objects. Use larger objects, which won't fit through a toilet paper tube, if this game is used with younger children who could choke if they put small things in their mouths.*

**NUMBER
GAMES HELP
CHILDREN LEARN.**

**CHILDREN
LEARN BEST FROM
PLAYING.**

SNACK COUNT

If you're planning to serve small crackers or bite-size cereal pieces for snack, make snack time a counting game. Draw a grid with six or eight spaces on each child's napkin. Have the children count out six crackers or pieces of cereal, placing one piece in each space on their napkin.

COUNTING BOWLS*

Cover the tops of several clean plastic margarine tubs with circles of paper. Write a number (one to ten) on the top of each lid. Give the children the bowls and some objects to put in them, such as blocks, stones, paperclips, acorns, etc. Have children look at the number on the lid and count that many objects into the bowl.

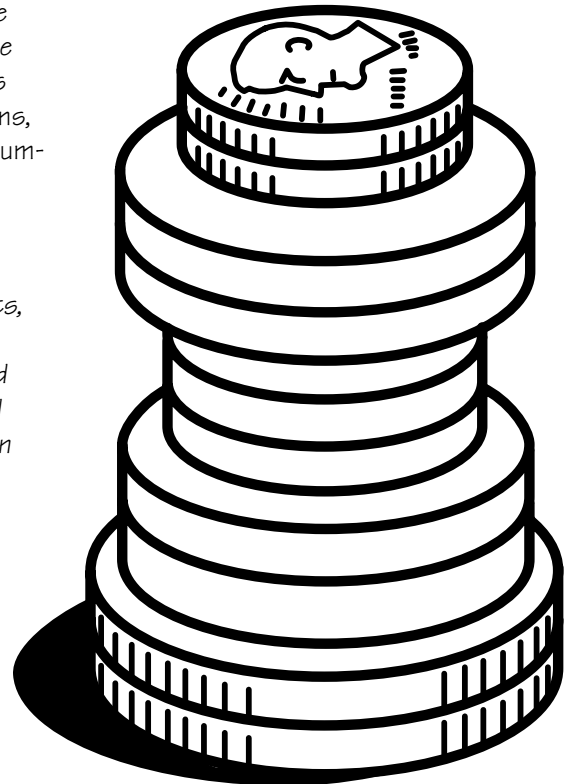
** Young children can choke on small objects. Use larger objects, which won't fit through a toilet paper tube, if this game is used with younger children who could choke if they put small things in their mouths.*

SECRET MEASUREMENTS

Measure several things around the room. Cut pieces of string or yarn in the same lengths as the objects measured. Give the children the cut yarn to try to find out what objects were measured.

USING MONEY

Set up a classroom store in the pretend play area. You could make it a grocery store, shoe store, card store, department store, etc. Include play paper money and coins for the children to use.



Pennsylvania Pathways

Professional Development
for Child Caregivers

PENNSYLVANIA



Cooperative Extension
College of Agricultural Sciences

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