

Mathematics in play; things to do at home

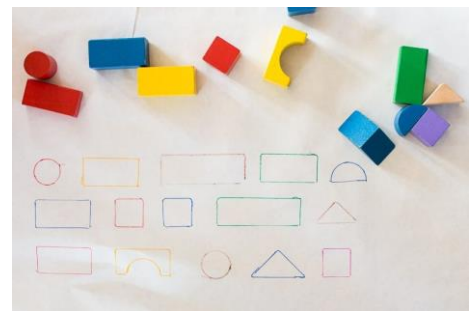
Activity: Ask the children to collect some of their toys and see if they can put them into size order, smallest to biggest.

Demonstrate language such as 'longest', 'shortest', 'heavy', 'light', 'shape'.

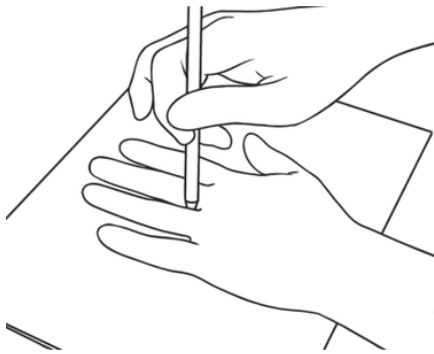
Activity: Use tape to create shapes on the floor. The children can place blocks on top of the tape. If you do not have tape you can draw the shape onto paper and do the same.

Activity: Use your blocks as stencils and draw around them! This also supports children's mark making.

Can the children tell you what shapes they can see?



Activity: Draw around each other's hands. The children can count their fingers as they go!



Activity: Find sticks outdoors and create shapes with them. You can do the same with leaves, stones or anything else you may find!

Demonstrate language such as 'long', 'longer', 'longest', 'short', 'shorter', 'shortest', 'shape', 'big', 'small'.

Activity: Go outdoors and see what natural resources you can find, sort them into groups and count them up. E.g. 5 leaves, 2 stones, 2 acorns, 4 sticks...



Activity: The chef game. Get a large mixing bowl.

Create a recipe, e.g. 5 cars, 6 pieces of Lego, 2 crayons.

Read the recipe with the children telling them how much of each item (ingredient) you will need. The children then have to select the right amount of each and put it in the bowl. This is something a little bit silly and fun for the children to do which supports their counting.

You can use any items you like for this game. Pompoms, buttons, cereal (Cheerio's are a good one for counting), blocks, Lego, stones, pebbles etc.

Demonstrate number language such as 'one', 'two', 'three', 'lots', 'few', 'fewer', 'how many?', 'count'.



Activity: If you have access to technology at home, why not try this online counting game <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/underwater-counting>

The children in preschool will be familiar with this game. Not only does it support their number development but also their use of technology.