

FOUNDATIONS OF NUMERACY

by:

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Numeracy is the ability, knowledge, skills, and attitude that every learner needs to have to make use of mathematics in various situations and experiences. It allows learners to recognize and understand the important function of mathematics in our everyday lives and how we are going to use it in school.

It is very important that a child develops numeracy skills at the early stages of learning, so they can also start relating these skills in real life to make learning more advantageous. Exposure and experience with mathematics early on can be a strong foundation for future learning.

Providing time and space for parents and children to do math at home can be very helpful. It may be extremely beneficial if adults at home try to incorporate specific terms into daily life, such as asking a child for one liter of water or one kilo of rice, rather than asking for a bottle of water or simply some rice.

They may not fully understand but hearing such words will help them become familiar with the terms and associate the actual thing with the terms.

Counting together can be one of the very first math experiences for young children. Simply counting the things around like M&M chocolates, candies, stones, marbles, and the like can lead children to start learning the concept of numbers. Singing songs like “10 Little Indians”, “Ten in the Bed”, “1,2...Tie My Shoe” with numbers on them can lead children to learn the sequence of the numbers. They may enjoy the song itself as they learn the concept and sequence of numbers.

Hunting for numbers can also be a fun activity that will result in learning numbers. This can be an engaging activity as adults ask children to look for numbers in car plates, signs, calendars, newspapers, magazines, shopping catalogues, houses, and buildings. Reading such numbers may be difficult at first, but repetition and association can help a lot.

Playing cards can be a good number game - just to identify numbers and not to gamble. Asking the children to match numbers or to arrange numbers, whether in ascending or descending order, and even count the figures in each card can be enjoyable and fun without the kids knowing that they are learning math already,

Playing market shop is another way to build good foundational math skills. Asking the children to collect items and to count them based on the number you may require will help them count and associate the number with the items collected. Adults can prepare items to be collected or counted, like plastic eggs, marbles, rubber bands, or blocks, or just pick out items from the environment, like fallen leaves, stones, seeds, and the like.

It is never too early for a child to learn math. In fact, the earlier the child learns the concept of numbers, the easier it will make his or her math learning. The sooner we start, the stronger their mathematical concepts, skills, and knowledge become.

References:

https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/english/literacy/LiteracyandNumeracyTipstoHelpYourChild_Final.pdf