



MATH PK

FOR FAMILIES

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

What to expect:

Learning is particularly important in pre-kindergarten because at this age, children have a natural curiosity about the world around them and a willingness to learn and be taught. Take advantage of this natural curiosity by encouraging them to make guesses, use their reasoning skills, take risks and solve problems. Children in Pre-K are developmentally ready to learn mathematical concepts like quantity, patterns, measurement and data. Play is a developmentally appropriate method for young learners to explore the world and make sense of their environment. This information is a snapshot of learning in mathematics for pre-kindergarten. For a complete set of mathematics academic standards, [click here](#) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Know number names and be able to count to 20.
- Count the number of objects in a group up to 10.
- Recognize and be able to repeat patterns such as red, yellow; red, yellow; red, yellow.
- Identify common shapes such as triangles and circles.
- Compare two objects. (For example, a circle and an oval both have curved lines, but the oval is flatter than a circle.)
- Describe, sort and compare real-world objects.

What to do at home:

- Count common household objects (toys, coins, lamps, apple slices, etc.).
- Create simple patterns with sounds, movements and everyday objects, such as stomp, clap; stomp, clap; stomp, clap.
- Identify circles, squares, rectangles and triangles from everyday life. (For example, the sun is round, a flag is a rectangle, etc.)
- Identify objects as same or different and as more or less. (Use familiar things such as seasonal clothing items, things seen on a walk, etc., to classify the items.)
- Give your child opportunities to develop and apply all of the skills listed above with activities such as helping to put away the groceries or folding laundry.

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important to your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support math learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity helps students be successful in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to nurture curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- What do you notice about this object or group of objects? What do you wonder about them?
- What else would you like to learn about them?
- When you look around, what do you see that is alike? What do you see that is different?
- What do you see when you look outside?
- What do you like to do?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't always have the answer. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view about a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- How many types of fruit would you like to eat for lunch? Which ones will you choose and why?
- How many buttons do we need to close on your jacket today? Why?
- What was the best part of the day and why?
- How did you help someone today?

Fostering Comprehension

Comprehension in math can be thought of as making sense of a problem or real-world situation. Children often have difficulty seeing how math connects to the real world or struggle to be sure their answer makes sense. Help your child with math comprehension by asking if their solution actually answers the problem. Asking children, "Does your answer make sense to you?" helps them stop and think deeply about the solution.

BEFORE DISCUSSION

- What do you notice about this math problem?
- What do you wonder about it?
- What do you think will happen next?

DURING DISCUSSION

- How can you understand more about this through playing or a game?
- What can you count and compare?
- Can you find patterns around us?

AFTER DISCUSSION

- What other places might we find these things?
- What other items could you count?
- Could this be figured out a different way? How?