

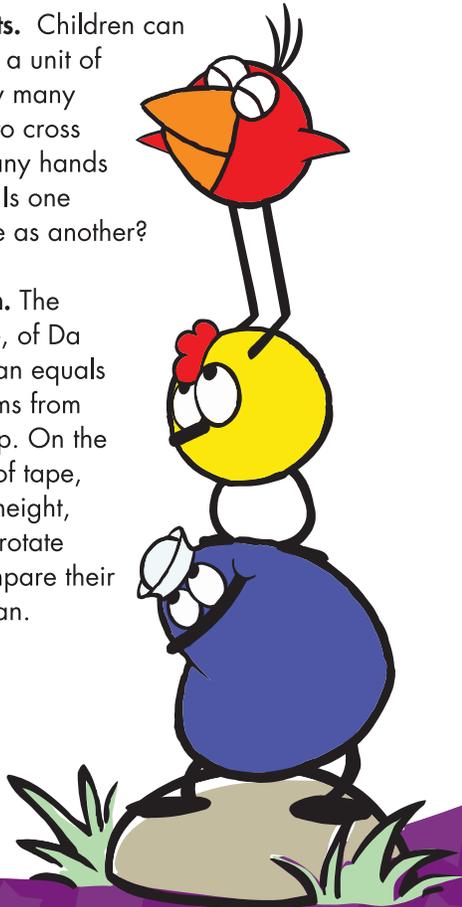
Math

How can so much fun teach STEM skills?

Sorting and counting are great ways to develop logic and learn basic math skills. Through play with blocks, colors, and shapes children begin to learn concepts such as classification and ordering.

Try these Activities!

- **Likes go together.** Assemble a set of toys and have children find matching toys: cars with cars, blocks with blocks. Repeat using different criteria: match colors, match size, match shape.
- **Design a quilt.** You can use fabric squares in a variety of patterns or triangles and squares cut out of construction paper. Create patterns in a design to mimic a quilt.
- **Body measurements.** Children can use their bodies as a unit of measurement. How many Janes does it take to cross the room? How many hands high is that tower? Is one hand the same size as another?
- **Da Vinci dimension.** The height, head to toe, of Da Vinci's Vitruvian man equals the width of his arms from fingertip to fingertip. On the floor with a piece of tape, mark each child's height, and have students rotate their bodies to compare their height and arm span.



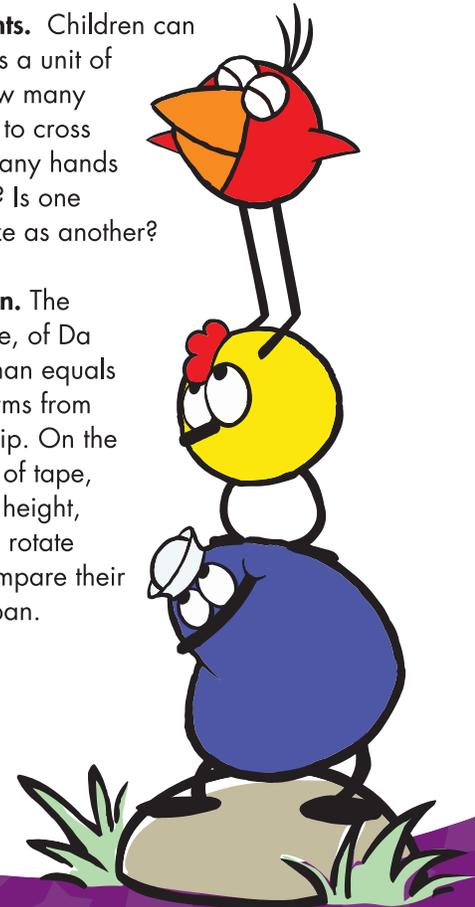
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Tell Children:

- “What color is this? Great! Let’s put it with the other (green) objects.” Children begin to notice things that are the same and different and learn how to sort them based on color, shape, or size.
- “That’s OK; let’s count again. One, two, three . . .” It’s okay to practice over and over.

Tell Parents:

We are sorting and counting, so try a home challenge! Ask your child to assemble a collection of toys based on a particular criterion. For example: “Find all of your toys that are red” or “Find all of your toys that fit in this box.”

Brain-Building Connection:

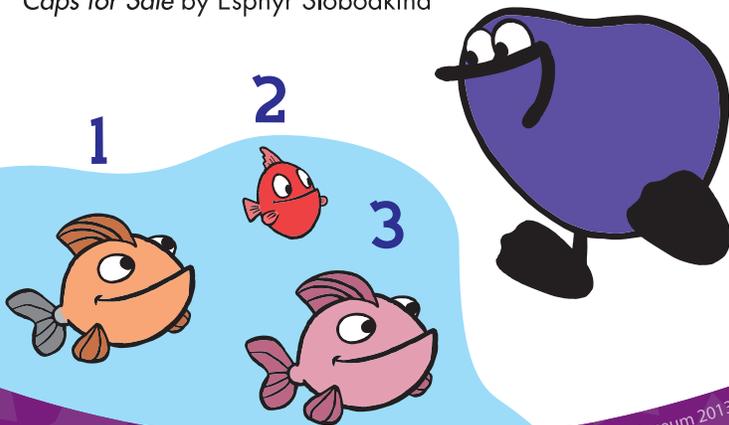
Math is about counting, classifying, matching, patterning, comparing, and divergent thinking. These mathematical thinking skills build strong brain connections through music, organization, predicting, and problem solving.

Read All About It:

Count on Math: Activities for Small Hands and Lively Minds by Pam Schiller and Lynne Peterson

Math Play! (Williamson Little Hands Series) by Diane McGowan, Mark Schrooten, and Loretta Trezzo Braren

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina



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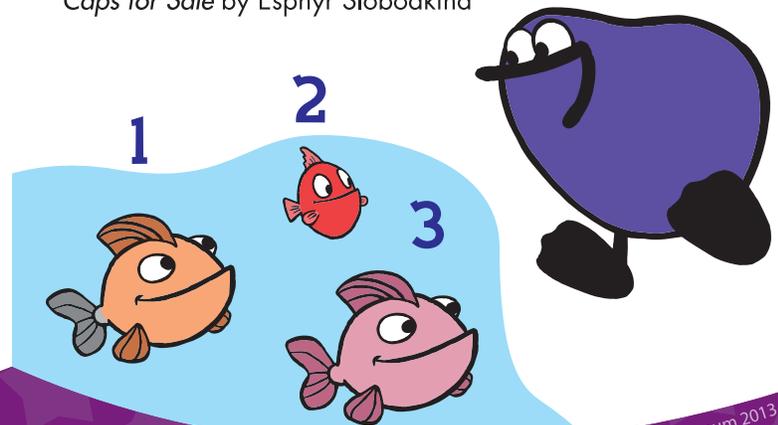
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