



Cuyahoga County  
Public Library



# 1, 2, 3 ... All eyes on Mathemagical Me!

## TALK

Attach numbers to a person, a place or a thing instead of just counting (i.e. "one crayon, two crayons, three crayons", or say "I need to buy four yogurts" as you pick them off the store shelf).

**Talk about distance.** How many steps will it take to get to your bike? The pool is farther away. It will take more steps.

**Describe Shapes.** The oval is like a circle, but stretched taller. The octagon has eight sides. A stop sign is an octagon.

**Talk about time.** Equate time with something practical that kids understand (i.e. "Grandma is coming in half an hour. That's the same as one episode of "Sid the Science Kid") or use a timer to mark time (i.e. five minutes until clean up).

## SING

Sing this traditional nursery rhyme when your child puts on her/his shoes:

*One Two, Buckle (you can substitute "tie" for buckle) My Shoe.*

*Three, Four, Close the Door.*

*Five, Six, Pick Up Sticks.*

*Seven, Eight, Lay them Straight.*

*Nine, Ten, a Big Fat Hen!*

## READ

*It's a Firefly Night* by Dianne Ochiltree

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## PLAY

Board games such as *Chutes and Ladders*, *Sorry*, *Dominoes*, and active games like hopscotch and jumping rope help children learn to count with one-to-one correspondence (i.e. one item at a time).

Every time you walk up and down the stairs with your child, count each step as you step on it, one by one. Give your child chores (i.e. setting the table) where he or she has to plan quantity and count functionally.

Count backwards as well as forwards (i.e. rocket blast off, five little monkeys jumping on the bed rhyme etc.).

Provide constructive toys that help children develop visual spatial planning skills, like blocks, puzzles, Legos and tangrams.

Use a wall calendar to count out days, identify numbers, name month, date and year.

Paper chains are a great way to help children understand time and learn subtraction concepts (i.e. eight more days until daddy comes home). Take one ring off each day.

Make trail mix with a variety of foods (i.e. cheerios, nuts, raisins) and count out how many of each you have. Label and empty egg carton 1-12. Count out a number of small items and match them to the corresponding numeral.

Show children math is a part of daily life as you make change (name the coins, talk about values), measure ingredients (show and read the fractions, compare half/whole/quarter), or decide on how soon to leave for a destination (i.e. the lake is 10 miles away, that will take longer than going to grandma's house because she is only three miles away).

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