

ACTIVITY PLAN

READY-TO-USE TEACHING IDEAS FOR MIXED AGES

A Multitude of Math Books! Count the ways we can make math books!



Materials:

bookmaking materials, including oaktag, glue sticks, clear contact paper, markers, crayons, instruction paper, and a hole punch and small binder rings or stapler
child safety scissors
magazines for cutting
camera and film
fabric scraps or wallpaper samples

Developing Skills:

math concepts
language and literacy
fine-motor
creative thinking
problem-solving

ACTIVITY

Invite children to make math books to include in the math center.

Shape books. Focus on a different geometric shape each week and help the group make books about it. Provide children with old magazines and catalogs and invite them to cut out pictures of the specific shape. Ask them to share and compare what they have found.

Pattern books. Give children premade blank books to fill with information about patterns. Place a variety of wallpaper samples or fabrics on a table. The group can select pieces and glue them onto the pages of their books.

Counting books. Children love to count things. Make number books to help them learn number identification and the concept of quantity. Write individual numbers on each page of the younger children's premade books, but encourage older children to write the numbers by themselves. Then provide them with magazines for cutting, markers, crayons, or stickers. Ask them to find or draw things that match the number on each page.

Remember: When counting objects, young children may need assistance. They might count quickly, skip numbers, and may not have developed an understanding of one-to-one correspondence or the relationship between numerals and quantity yet.

TAKE-HOME ACTIVITY

At-Home Number Game. What comes in twos, fours, sixes, tens, or twelves? Ask parents to work with their children to find things in their home that come in different numerical configurations—a pair of candlesticks, a dozen eggs, or a six-pack of soda, to name a few.

BOOKS

Count With Maisy

by Lucy Cousins
(Candlewick, 1999; \$5.99)

How Many Can Play?*

by Susan Canizares and
Betsey Chessen
(Scholastic Inc.; \$3.25)

I Spy Little Numbers*

by Jean Marzollo
(Scholastic Inc.; \$6.99)

*To order, call 800-SCHOLASTIC.

Curriculum Connection: MOVEMENT



Body Shapes. Ask children to use their bodies to continue developing math skills. Invite them to make geometric shapes using their bodies. Suggest to a few children that they lie down on the floor and make a square. How many children will be needed? How about for a triangle? Invite them to play a counting body game. Write numbers from 1 to 10 on separate sheets of paper. Hold up a number and ask the group to jump, clap, or flap their arms that specific amount of times. Children can take turns holding up the number cards and telling their friends which movements to do.