

Handy guide to maths for parents of children aged 1-2 years



“What I like”

- *Opening and closing things to see how they work.*
- *Doing things again and again.*
- *Filling and emptying objects in and out of containers.*

“What I can do”

- *Start to understand things are still there even when I can't see them.*
- *Understand words such as, 'more' and 'enough' even though I can't explain what they mean.*

“How you can help me”

- Read books that use words such as under, over, big, small, in and out etc.
- Sing nursery rhymes that use numbers like, Five little ducks or 1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive.
- Give your toddler objects they can open, close, bang, shake and take apart in some way.
- Role play and allow toddlers to join in with routines such as helping to set the table where they can put out one cup for mum, one cup for dolly etc.
- Let your toddler help you sort washing piles or pair socks.
- Encourage toddlers to tidy up putting similar items together such as all of the blocks in the box.
- Take your toddler on a nature walk to collect leaves, stones, twigs and pine cones. Spend time sorting these together and talking about what is the same and what is different.
- Count together at home – stairs up to bed, buttons on top, food on plate – anything that can be counted.

Remember every day brings opportunities!