



# Time to Try

Ages: Babies

Try using a number as an adjective when talking to children.

*“Let’s take three books home” or “There are two chairs at this table.”*

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**Math concept | Number Sense**

Understanding what numbers mean and how they relate to one another

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Babies*

Use the words “more” and “less” to describe stacks of blocks, books, or puzzle pieces. Ask children to point to the stack that has more.

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**Math concept | Making Comparisons**

Observing similarities and differences between objects or groups of objects

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Babies*

Use a puppet or stuffed animal to demonstrate position words like behind, between, or below.

*“Where is the bunny?  
Let’s look behind the chair,  
on top of the table, under  
the desk, etc.”*

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**Math concept | Spatial Skills**

Mentally manipulating shapes and objects in the environment and describing their relationship

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Babies*

Let children choose 3 books to take home: help them count each one and confirm there are 3 books. Stick with small numbers like 1, 2, and 3 to help build understanding of quantity.

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**Math concept | Number Sense**

Understanding what numbers mean and how they relate to one another

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Babies*

Take 2 books and think about different ways to compare them.

*“This book is red and that one is blue. This one is heavy and that one is light. This one is small and that one is big.”*

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**Math concept | Making Comparisons**

Observing similarities and differences between objects or groups of objects

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Toddlers*

Choose a picture book  
with repetitive text.  
Pause to let children fill  
in the blank and continue  
the pattern!

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**Math concept | Recognizing Patterns**

Noticing predictable sequences that follow rules

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Toddlers*

Putting things in order is  
a key math concept.  
Talk about what happens  
first, next, and last in  
the story.

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**Math concept | Sequencing**

Putting things in order and recognizing that the order matters

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Toddlers*

Puzzles are great for learning math! If one is too easy, give children multiple puzzles at once and mix up the pieces.

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**Math concept | Spatial Skills**

Mentally manipulating shapes and objects in the environment and describing their relationship

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Toddlers*

When you read  
a counting book, try  
counting the items in  
different orders,  
like right to left or  
bottom to top.

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**Math concept | Number Sense**

Understanding what numbers mean and how they  
relate to one another

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Toddlers*

Try counting windows, books, chairs, etc. with children. After counting, make sure to ask how many are there total.

*“1, 2, 3...How many books are there? 3 books!”*

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**Math concept | Number Sense**

Understanding what numbers mean and how they relate to one another

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Preschoolers*

After reading, ask children to describe the events of the story in order using the words first, next, and last

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**Math concept | Sequencing**

Putting things in order and recognizing that the order matters

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# Time to Try

Ages: Preschoolers

Gather 2 books of different sizes. Ask children to hold one in each hand.

*“Which one feels heavier? Why do you think that is?”*

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**Math concept | Making Comparisons**

Observing similarities and differences between objects or groups of objects

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# Time to Try

Ages: Preschoolers

Gather 5 - 10 books.  
Ask children,  
*“Can you stack these books from biggest to smallest? From lightest to heaviest? From shortest to tallest?”*

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**Math concept | Spatial Skills**

Mentally manipulating shapes and objects in the environment and describing their relationship

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Preschoolers*

Without counting, ask children how many chairs are around the table. Then count the chairs by tapping them one by one.

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**Math concept | Subitizing**

Seeing small quantities and knowing what the number is without counting

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Preschoolers*

Without counting, ask children how many rows of books there are on a bookcase. Then count the rows by tapping them one by one

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**Math concept | Subitizing**

Seeing small quantities and knowing what the number is without counting

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Preschoolers*

Count a stack of books. Ask children,

*“If we add one more, how many will there be?”*

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**Math concept | Number Sense**

Understanding what numbers mean and how they relate to one another

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Preschoolers*

Gather 5-10 books and invite children to sort the books (by color, size, or any quality they choose). Then ask them to compare.

*“Which category has the most books? The least? How many more or less?”*

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**Math concept | Number Sense**

Understanding what numbers mean and how they relate to one another

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Preschoolers*

Before you put a toy away, ask children to put it next to, behind, above or below another object.

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**Math concept | Spatial Skills**

Mentally manipulating shapes and objects in the environment and describing their relationship

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Early Elementary*

Choose one shelf of  
books in the library.  
Ask children,

*“Do you notice any  
patterns about how the  
books are organized?”*

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**Math concept | Recognizing Patterns**

Noticing predictable sequences that follow rules

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Early Elementary*

Gather 5 - 10 books.  
Ask children,

*“How many different ways can you sort these books? Can a friend guess your rules for sorting?”*

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**Math concept | Making Comparisons**

Observing similarities and differences between objects  
or groups of objects

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Early Elementary*

Ask children to find  
an author who has  
more than 5 books  
in the library.

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**Math concept | Number Sense**

Understanding what numbers mean and how they relate  
to one another

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Early Elementary*

Use your time near a computer station to ask children questions like,

*“If our family is going to use the computer for 60 min, how can you divide the time equally between family members?”*

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**Math concept | Number Operations**

Understanding how quantities can change, for example through addition, multiplication, etc.

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Early Elementary*

Ask children,

*“If everyone in our family gets to check out 3 items today, how many items are we coming home with?”*

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**Math concept | Number Operations**

Understanding how quantities can change, for example through addition, multiplication, etc.

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Early Elementary*

Ask children to draw a map with a path that leads to their favorite part in the library. Share it with someone to see if they can find their way there.

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**Math concept | Spatial Skills**

Mentally manipulating shapes and objects in the environment and describing their relationship

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# Time to Try

*Ages: Early Elementary*

Take turns being the “robot”  
and the “programmer.”

The programmer must give step by step directions to a simple task like opening a door or getting a book off a shelf. The robot must follow the instructions exactly and not do anything they weren't instructed to do.

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**Math concept | Sequencing**

Putting things in order and recognizing  
that the order matters

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