

Read and Play with Math

Number Sense

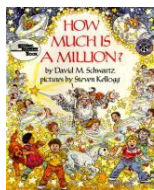
Math skills are essential for kids to be successful in school and life. **Number Sense** is one of the nine Big Ideas put forth by Erikson Institute's Early Math Collaborative that young kids need to learn. Here is Erikson's website for more great math activities and information: <https://bit.ly/30wTbgd>



Number sense is the ability to understand the quantity of a set and the name associated with that quantity. Even babies are able to compare quantities, but the idea of associating a specific number to a group of items is a concept you can help your children learn over time.

Read and Talk

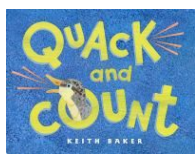
Here are some of our favorite books that help build children's number sense. You can reserve these books at www.skokiellibrary.info.



How Much is a Million? By David M. Schwartz (Youth Easy Nonfiction 513.2 S)
Have you ever wondered what a million really looks like? Talk about what comes in large quantities (stars, people in the world, drops of water) and small quantities (we have 2 feet, 10 fingers).



One is a Lot (Except When it's Not). By Muon Van (Youth Picture Book VAN)
Whether something is a lot or not enough depends on what you're counting. Think about what you'd rather have more of (ice cream, playgrounds) and what you'd like in quantities of zero (being sick, pebbles in your shoes)



Quack and Count. By Keith Baker (Youth ABC/123 Books BAK)
Even as the ducklings appear in different groupings, there are still seven of them. As you read the book, have your child put imaginary ducklings in groups (or you can use paper clips or pencils, etc.) just like in the story.



Ten Black Dots. By Donald Crews (Youth Picture Books CRE)
A counting book which shows what can be done with ten black dots--one can make a sun, two a fox's eyes, eight the wheels of a train, etc. What can YOU make with black dots?



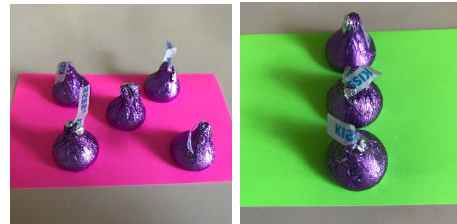
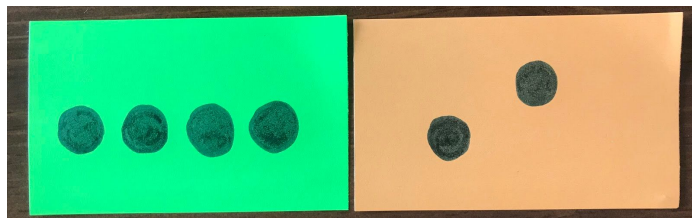
Two Dogs on a Trike. By Gabi Snyder (Youth Picture Books SNY)
One by one, each dog escapes its yard and joins the adventure. Compare the different vehicles you see outside. Which one could fit the most dogs, which one the least?

Play

There are many ways you can practice number sense!



Practice the concepts of more, less, and the same with things you have at home.



“Subitizing” is the concept of instantly knowing (without counting) how many items are in a group up to 5 items. It's an easy skill to practice at home in a playful way. Have your child look at a dotted card for a couple of seconds before turning it over. Now ask your little one to show the amount with their fingers, blocks or other items. Keep rearranging items in different patterns to make this game more challenging.