

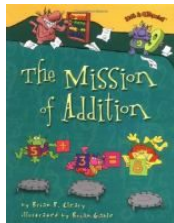
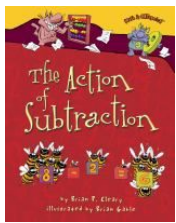
Read and Play with Math Operations



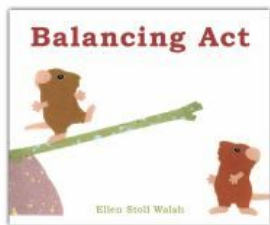
Math skills are essential for kids to be successful in school and life. **Operations** are one of the nine Big Ideas put forth by Erikson Institute's Early Math Collaborative that young kids need to learn. Here is Erikson's website for more great math activities and information: <https://bit.ly/30wTbqd>

Number **operations** are the tools we use to find the answers to questions like, How many more? How many now? Is it fair?

Read and Talk



The Action of Subtraction and *The Mission of Addition*.
By Bryan P. Cleary (Youth Easy Nonfiction 513.212 C)
Fun, rhyming stories explain the basic meaning of adding and subtracting numbers. Just for the fun of it, use math terms when asking if your child would like more or less of something. "Would you like me to add some apple juice?"



Balancing Act. By Ellen Stoll Walsh (Youth Picture Book WAL)
Two mice have fun playing on a teeter-totter, but as more and larger friends join them, it becomes increasingly difficult to stay balanced. As you read, have your child stand with their arms to their sides to show how the teeter-totter keeps its balance when there are an equal number of animals on each side.



Big Fat Hen. By Keith Baker (Youth ABC/123 Books BAK)
Big Fat Hen counts to 10 with her friends and all their chicks. Point out that $2 + 2 = 4$, that $4 + 2 = 6$, and that 10 eggs equal 10 chicks.



Rooster's Off to See the World. By Eric Carle (Youth ABC/123 Books CAR)
A rooster, on his way to see the world, is joined by 14 animals along the way. This fun and simple introduction to the meaning of numbers and sets also reinforces addition and subtraction skills as the rooster's friends join and then leave his not so well planned out adventure!

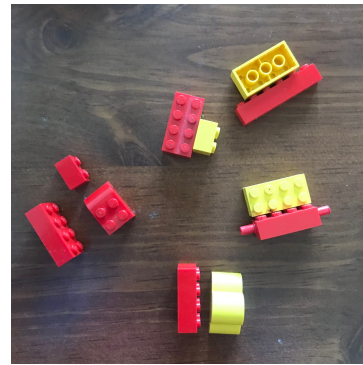
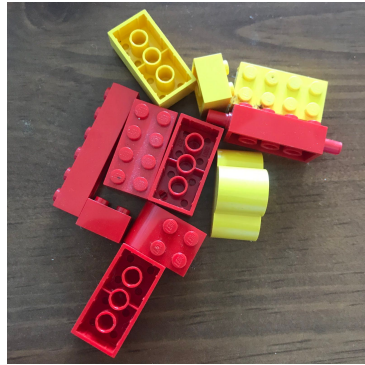


Ten Flashing Fireflies. By Philemon Sturges (Youth Picture Books STU)
Two children catch fireflies on a summer night, putting them one by one into a jar until all 10 are caught, and then they let them out to watch all 10 fly away. This rhyming story is a perfect way to practice +1 addition and then -1 subtraction as the fireflies are released.

Play

Try these activities to show that any number of things can be changed by adding or subtracting some.

Fill a small bowl with LEGOs (or use other items in two colors). Ask your child to take a handful and wonder together whether you have more of one color. Match the LEGOs to check. How many yellow LEGOs do you have to add to have the same amount?



Make up a plate of cookies, grapes, or other snack items and gather a few people. Ask your little ones if they think that there will be enough for everyone. Pass around the food to check.



What if there are cookies left over? Are there enough for everyone to get 2 or even 3? Have yummy fun along the way!

*Using simple math language (like **more**, **less**, **add**, **take away**) every day now makes learning complex math content much easier for your child later.*