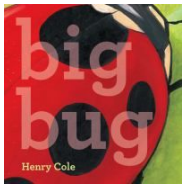
Read and Play with Math
Spatial Relationships

Math skills are essential for kids to be successful in school and life. **Spatial relationships** is one of the nine Big Ideas put forth by Erikson Institute's Early Math Collaborative that young kids need to learn. We are featuring activity sheets for all nine Big Ideas this summer. Here is Erikson's website for more great math activities and informationL: https://bit.ly/30wTbgd

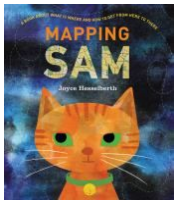
Spatial relationships is the understanding of how things move and relate to each other in the world around us. Bigger/smaller, above/below, together/apart, near/far, and left/right are just a small part of how children understand objects and space around them.

Read and Talk

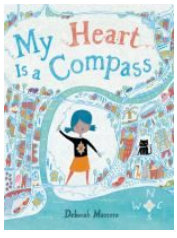
Here are some of our favorite books that help teach and reinforce spatial relationships. You can reserve these books at www.skokielibrary.info.



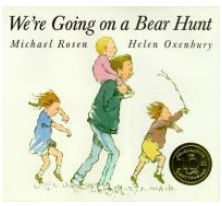
Big Bug. By Henry Cole *(Youth Picture Books COL)*
Beginning with a bug, various objects are revealed as being big and small on a farm. This book with few words is a great place to start. What are some big and small things around you? How long would it take that ladybug to walk across the leaf? How long does it take you to walk across the room?



Mapping Sam. By Joyce Hesselberth (Youth Little Learner Books Science)
An adventurous cat named Sam explores her neighborhood at night and maps of all types reveal her journey, illuminating different points of view and the various spots Sam visits. Can you think of more things that you could map?



My Heart Is a Compass. By Deborah Marcero (Youth Picture Book MAR)
Rose wants to bring something truly unique for show-and-tell, so she creates maps to explore her imagination in search of something no one has ever seen before. A compass shows us which way we might want to go. Can you draw a map of your dreams?



We're Going on a Bear Hunt. By Michael Rosen (Youth Picture Book ROS)
A family of brave bear hunters journey through grass, a river, mud, and other obstacles before the inevitable encounter with the bear forces a headlong retreat. As you read this family's adventure, play along as they go over, under, and through the landscapes. It's fun, and many kids learn best while moving.

Play

Here are some easy activities to boost your child's spatial reasoning:

Open-ended block play

Fun in the sand

Puzzles

Provide language tools to describe the world around your kids while they play.

- Where is ___? Over, under, behind something else?
- Tell me about what you've just built!
- Is ___ tall, tiny, is it bigger than ___?
- Is ___ farther away from you or closer to you than ___?