

## Mathematics Learning Activities Grades 1-3

### Key Stage 1 (Grades 1 - 3) Choice Board

Choose from these tasks, for a total of 20 minutes each day.

Learning Activity	Time	Instructions/Elaboration	Considerations
<b>Building with Blocks</b>	<b>20 min</b>	You can give your child a challenge to build specific structures, such as building a tower that uses at least 20 (40, 150, etc.) blocks. Or, your child could build collaboratively, taking turns with a partner. On a turn, each player could draw a card from a standard deck of cards or roll one or two dice to determine the number of blocks that each partner can add on to the structure for their turn.	Playing with blocks or Lego helps your child to develop spatial awareness, while also working on fine motor skills.
<b>Make 10</b>	<b>3 - 5 min</b>	Show your child some of your fingers and ask them to tell you how many more are needed to make ten. For example you show them 4 fingers and they say "six".	Using fingers to show the number supports children to make the connection between the quantities and the words for numbers.
<b>Counting</b>	<b>5 - 10 min</b>	Encourage your child to count throughout the day. This could be as part of other activities, such as counting the number of steps as they walk or the number of utensils used to set the table. Counting can also be an activity of its own, where you provide your child with a set of objects such as socks, toys, buttons, etc. and ask your child to count them. Younger children can be encouraged to count smaller sets of objects (10 -100 items). Older children could be encouraged to count larger collections of objects (100 -1000 items). Have your child write or make a drawing showing what they counted and how they counted.	Learning to count and developing more efficient ways to count large groups of objects is an important part of learning mathematics for children at this age. Let your child lead this activity, asking them to explain their thinking and how they know they counted accurately. The following link is to a short video explaining the activity: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/counting-collections">https://tinyurl.com/counting-collections</a>
<b>Shape or Object Hunt</b>	<b>5 - 10 min</b>	Go on a scavenger hunt with your child to find different shapes (squares, triangles, circles, and rectangles) or objects (cubes, spheres, pyramids). You can combine this with counting to find the number of sides or corners on a shape or the number of edges, faces, or vertices for an object. Your child can also practice drawing the shapes and objects that they find.	This activity supports your child to think about the characteristics of 2-dimensional shapes and 3-dimensional objects and helps to develop spatial reasoning.
<b>Jigsaw Puzzles</b>	<b>10 - 20 min</b>	Your child might enjoy commercially produced Jigsaw puzzles of 24 - 300 pieces, depending on their age and skill level. You and your child can make your own jigsaw puzzle by drawing a picture or using a picture from a magazine and cutting it into pieces. The cutting can be done free-form or following lines you or your child has drawn. Save your puzzles in envelopes or zip top bags to do again later. There are also online puzzle sites such as, <a href="https://www.jigsawplanet.com/">https://www.jigsawplanet.com/</a> that you can explore.	Puzzles provide an excellent opportunity for your child to develop their spatial awareness.

<b>Cooking/ Baking</b>	<b>5 - 15 min</b>	Preparing and serving food provides many opportunities for counting, measuring, and following directions in order. Your child can help to count out ingredients or servings. They can also assist with reading the recipe and measuring ingredients.	Health Canada has great suggestions for preparing food with your child. <a href="https://tinyurl.com/food-guide">https://tinyurl.com/food-guide</a>
<b>Estimation</b>	<b>3 - 5 min</b>	Ask your child to estimate in different situations. Here are a few examples: Estimate how many steps to get from one place to another. Estimate which cup will hold more water. Estimate which of two objects is heavier. Estimate how long it takes to do something such as brushing your teeth. After your child has made an estimate, talk with them about why they think their estimate makes sense, then check to see how close their estimate is to the actual measurement.	Children at this age are developing a sense of what it means to measure. They benefit from opportunities to compare attributes such as weight, capacity, and length and use words such as heavier/lighter, more/less, longer/shorter.
<b>One More, One Less</b>	<b>3 - 5 min</b>	Say a number and ask your child to tell you what is one more or one less than that number. This is a very versatile activity that can be adapted to suit the age and ability of your child. For example, you could ask your child to tell you the number that is two more or two less, ten more or ten less, or one hundred more or one hundred less than a given number.	This game helps your child to practice their math facts, while also helping them to see and use the patterns in our number system.
<b>10 Game</b>	<b>5 - 10 min</b>	This is a game for 2 or 3 players. The first player says "1" or "1, 2". The second player increases by one or two, saying, "2", "2, 3", "3" or "3, 4", depending on what the first player said. Play continues until someone says "10". The person who says "10" is the loser. Many variations are possible, such as starting at 10 and counting down to 0, using a pile of 10 small objects while playing, writing out the number said during play, playing to a larger number such as 21, starting at a larger number such as 175 and playing to 200.	This game gives children practice saying the counting numbers, but also encourages pattern recognition and strategy.
<b>Card Games and Board Games</b>	<b>5 - 15 min</b>	Card games and board games provide opportunities for your child to recognize numbers, counting, plan ahead and use logic, reasoning, and strategy. Some card games your child might enjoy at this age are: Crazy Eights, Go Fish, Snap, Pig, Concentration, and Solitaire. Some board games your child might enjoy are: Snakes and Ladders, Checkers, Jenga, Yahtzee, Battleship, and Connect Four. Also fun are paper and pencil games like Tic-tac-toe, Sim and Dots and Boxes.	The rules for many common games are available in books and online such as at <a href="https://bicyclecards.com/rules/">https://bicyclecards.com/rules/</a> or <a href="https://tinyurl.com/card-game-rules">https://tinyurl.com/card-game-rules</a> You can also make up your own game with your own rules.
<b>Online Suggestions</b>	<b>10 - 30 min</b>	<a href="https://curio.ca/en/categories/math-science-and-technology/mathematics-1954/">https://curio.ca/en/categories/math-science-and-technology/mathematics-1954/</a> <a href="http://www.mathplayground.com">www.mathplayground.com</a> <a href="http://www.dreambox.com/canada">www.dreambox.com/canada</a> <a href="http://www.mathbeforebed.com">www.mathbeforebed.com</a> <a href="https://nrich.maths.org/primary">https://nrich.maths.org/primary</a> <a href="https://illuminations.nctm.org/">https://illuminations.nctm.org/</a> <a href="https://www.mathlearningcenter.org/resources/apps">https://www.mathlearningcenter.org/resources/apps</a> <a href="https://www.youcubed.org/">https://www.youcubed.org/</a> <a href="https://code.org/">https://code.org/</a> <a href="https://earlymath.erikson.edu/">https://earlymath.erikson.edu/</a> <a href="https://toytheater.com/">https://toytheater.com/</a>	Playing games or watching videos online with your child gives you the opportunity to ask them questions about what they are playing or watching. You might ask them about their thinking as they complete a challenge in a game or pick one idea that is shown in a video to discuss.