

Math is All Around Us

Questions and Prompts to Extend Learning



Notice and ask questions when children sort objects and create groups.

“I notice you made three groups of dinosaurs. How did you decide which dinosaurs should go in each group?”



Invite estimation practice, then count together to check your guess.

“I wonder how many dinosaurs are in your cave? Let’s count and see how close our guess is!”



Find opportunities to practice one-to-one correspondence.

“Let’s give each dinosaur an egg. One, two, three, four.... How many more eggs do we need so that every dinosaur has one?”



Offer positional words during games, activities, and play.

“The apatosaur is behind the big tree, but her baby is under the pile of leaves. Where is your triceratops heading?”



Point out patterns and invite children to extend them. Encourage children to generate their own patterns.

“This row of dinos makes a pattern with their colors: gray, brown, green; gray, brown, green ... I wonder what would come next to continue the pattern?”



Encourage children to notice shapes in their play and environment. Use language like sides and corners as you describe the shapes you notice.

“That big spike reminds me of a triangle! What do you think? How can we find out? Let’s count the sides, one ... two ... three Can we count the corners too?”

Celebrate problem solving and mathematical thinking!



- Focus on approach and effort more than accuracy.
- Model persistence and a growth mindset.
- Ask questions to help children to describe their thought process.
- Offer specific feedback when children are on the right track!