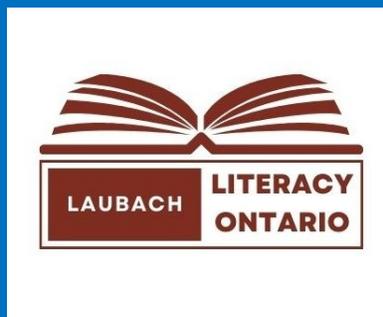
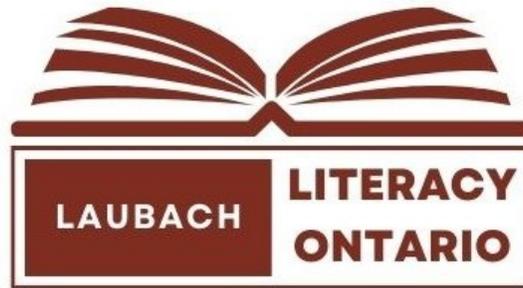




# Family Literacy Activity Handbook





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# Family Literacy Activities

## Storytelling Adventure

Objective: To improve reading and writing skills while fostering creativity and imagination.

Materials:

- Blank paper
- Pencils, pens, or markers
- A bowl or hat

Instructions:

1. Start by sitting down with your family and explaining the activity. The goal is to create a story together, one sentence at a time.
2. Have everyone write down the beginning of a story on their blank paper. For example, "Once upon a time, there was a magical forest."
3. Fold the paper over to cover up the sentence and pass it to the person on the left.
4. Everyone should read the sentence they received and then continue the story with one more sentence.



5. After each sentence, fold the paper over to hide the previous sentences and pass it to the next person. Keep going until each paper has gone around the circle once.
6. Collect all the papers and place them in a bowl or hat.
7. Have each family member draw a paper from the bowl and read the story that has been created.
8. Finally, everyone can decorate their paper and display it in a special spot in the house.

Variations:

- If your family enjoys drawing, have everyone illustrate their part of the story instead of writing it down.
- Use different prompts for the beginning of the story. For example, “On a dark and stormy night” or “In a far-off land, there lived a brave hero.”
- For older children, you can add more rules to make the game more challenging. For example, each sentence must contain a certain word or phrase, or the story must have a particular theme.

This activity is a great way to bond as a family while also building literacy skills. It encourages creativity, teamwork, and imagination, making it a fun and educational way to spend time together.



## Story Chain

**Objective:** To encourage creativity, listening, and storytelling skills in the family.

**Materials:**

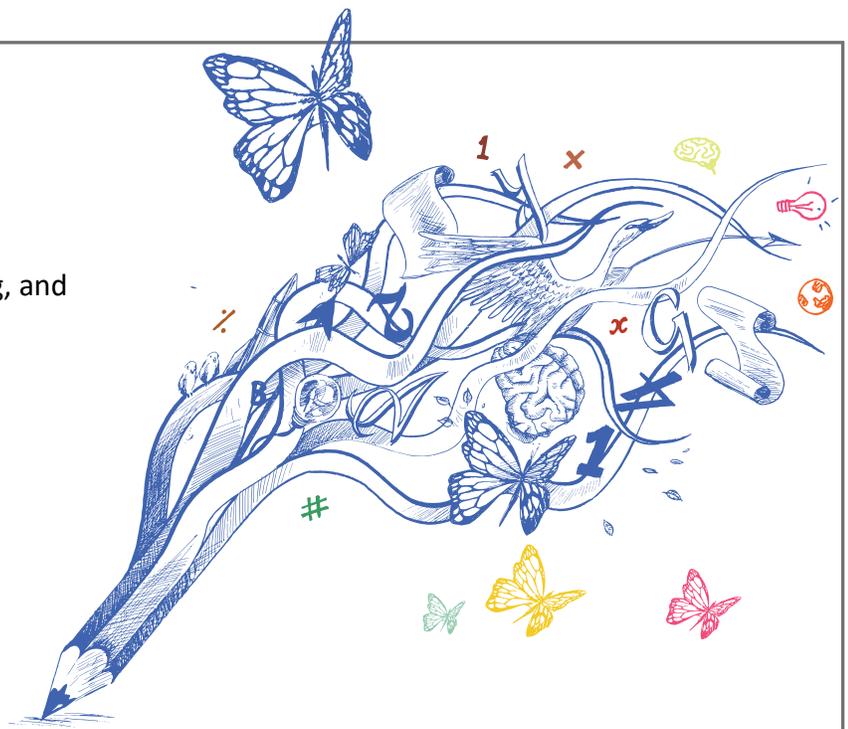
- A group of family members (2-6 people)
- A timer (optional)
- A notebook and pen

**Instructions:**

1. Gather your family members and explain the rules of the activity.
2. The first person starts by saying the opening sentence of a story, such as “Once upon a time, there was a magical kingdom in the middle of a forest.”
3. The second person continues the story by adding one more sentence, and so on, until everyone in the group has contributed to the story.
4. You can set a timer for each person to add their sentence or simply take turns.
5. Encourage creativity and imagination in the story but remind everyone to listen carefully to the previous sentences to ensure the story makes sense and flows smoothly.
6. When the story has reached a satisfying conclusion, write it down in the notebook to read and enjoy later.

**Tips:**

- Consider setting a theme for the story (e.g., adventure, mystery, fantasy) to make it more exciting and engaging.
- Encourage younger family members to participate by giving them prompts or helping them with their sentences.
- As the story progresses, take a moment to recap the previous events to help everyone remember what has happened so far.
- Have fun and let your imagination run wild!



## Family Storybook

**Objective:** To help promote reading and writing skills by creating a family storybook.

**Materials:**

- Paper
- Pencils or pens
- Crayons, markers, or coloured pencils
- Stapler or hole punch with ribbon or yarn
- Imagination!

**Instructions:**

1. Gather your family members and decide on a story that you would like to tell. It could be a story that has happened to your family, a made-up story, or a retelling of a favourite book.
2. Have each family member write or draw a part of the story on a sheet of paper. Encourage everyone to be as creative as possible!
3. Once everyone has contributed, assemble the pages in order and staple them together or punch holes in the pages and tie them together with ribbon or yarn.
4. Read your family storybook together and celebrate your collaborative efforts in creating it!

**Tips:**

- For younger children, you can have them draw pictures and dictate the story to an adult who can write it down.
- You can also create multiple family storybooks, each with a different theme or genre, such as fairy tales, adventure stories, or silly stories.
- Display your family storybook in a prominent place in your home, such as on a bookshelf or coffee table, to encourage everyone to read and reread it.



## Family Storytelling Time

Objective: To foster a love for reading and improve language skills through shared storytelling.

Materials:

- A book or a picture book
- Paper
- Pen or pencil

Instructions:

1. Gather your family members and choose a book or a picture book that everyone will enjoy. It can be a storybook or a picture book, depending on the ages and interests of your family members.
2. Read the book together, either taking turns or having one person read aloud to the group.
3. After reading the book, have a group discussion about the story. Ask questions to encourage your family members to share their thoughts and opinions about the characters, plot, and setting. For younger children, you can ask them to identify objects, characters, or events in the book.
4. Next, have each family member draw a picture of their favourite part of the story or write a short summary of the story. For younger children, they can draw or write simple sentences about their favorite character or event in the story.
5. Finally, take turns sharing your drawings or summaries with the group. Encourage each family member to explain why they chose that particular part of the story and what they liked about it.
6. As an extension activity, you can encourage your family members to create their own stories or write their own endings to the book you just read.

Benefits:

- Encourages family bonding and quality time spent together.
- Fosters a love for reading and improves language skills.
- Enhances creativity and imagination.
- Provides an opportunity for family members to express their thoughts and opinions in a safe and supportive environment.



## Family Book Club

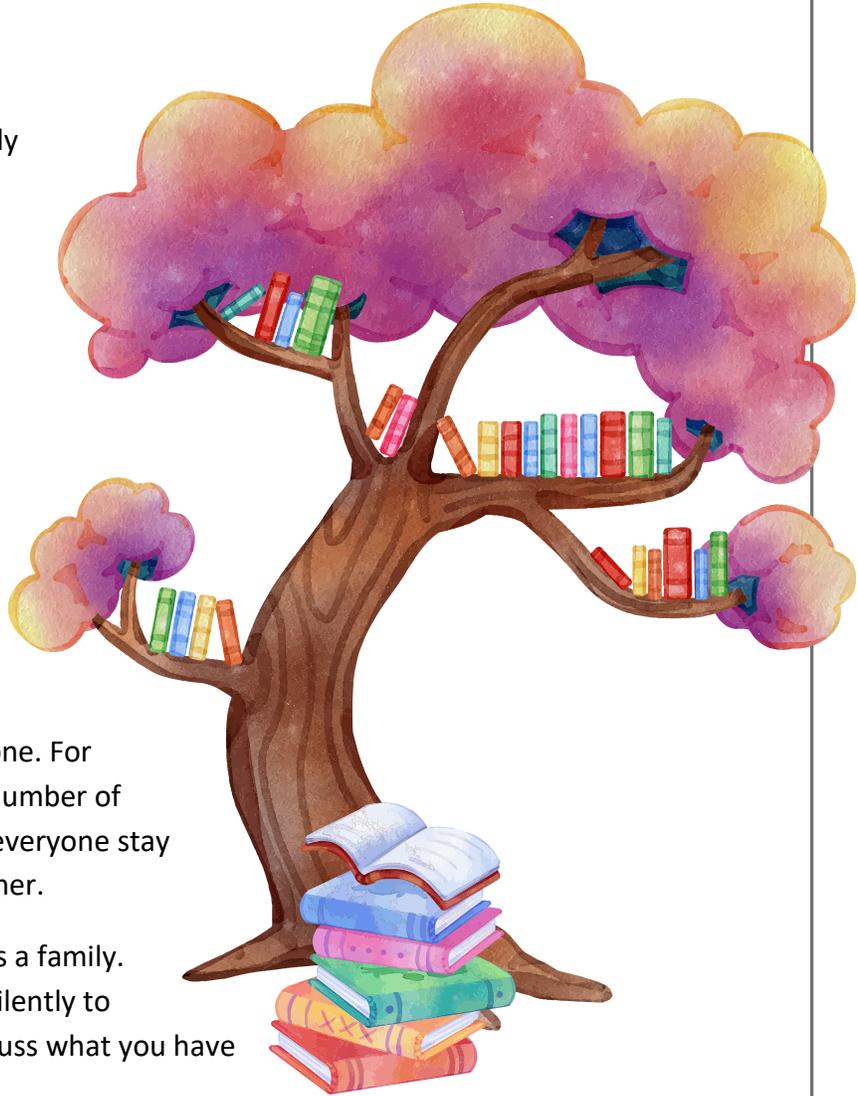
**Objective:** To promote family bonding through reading, discussion, and creative activities and to encourage families to read together and share their thoughts and opinions about the book they have read.

**Materials:**

- A book that is appropriate for the entire family
- Notebooks and pens
- Art supplies (e.g., crayons, colored pencils, markers)
- Snacks and drinks (optional)

**Instructions:**

1. As a family, decide on a book that you would all like to read. Make sure that the book is appropriate for everyone's age and interests.
2. Set a reading schedule that works for everyone. For example, you could agree to read a certain number of pages or chapters each week. This will help everyone stay on track and finish the book in a timely manner.
3. Set aside time each week to read together as a family. You could take turns reading aloud or read silently to yourselves. Make sure to take breaks to discuss what you have read and ask each other questions.
4. After you have finished the book, discuss what you liked and did not like about it. Ask each other questions and share your thoughts and opinions. You could also discuss the characters, themes, and plot of the book.
5. Encourage each family member to create something inspired by the book. This could be a drawing, a painting, a poem, or a short story. Display everyone's creations around the house or share them with friends and family.



6. Once you have completed the book and all the activities, celebrate your achievement as a family. You could have a movie night and watch a movie based on the book or cook a meal inspired by the book.

Benefits:

- Encourages reading and promotes critical thinking and creativity.
- Provides an opportunity for families to spend quality time together and strengthen their bonds.



## Alphabet Treasure Hunt

Objective: To promote letter recognition and vocabulary development.

Materials:

- Alphabet flashcards or letter tiles
- A basket or container
- Paper and a pen



Instructions:

1. Begin by placing all the alphabet flashcards or letter tiles in a basket or container.
2. Take turns with your child to pick a letter from the basket.
3. Once a letter is picked, encourage your child to think of a word that starts with that letter. For example, if the letter “B” is picked, your child could say “ball” or “butterfly.”
4. Write down the word on a piece of paper.
5. Once you have 5-10 words, send your child on a scavenger hunt to find objects around the house that start with the chosen letters. For example, if the letters “B” and “C” were chosen, your child could look for a “ball” and a “chair.”
6. When your child has found all the objects, ask them to place them in a pile and go through the words again, encouraging them to say the words out loud as they match them with the objects.
7. To make the activity more challenging, you can ask your child to find objects that start with both upper and lowercase letters.



Benefits:

- Helps young children develop and practice letter recognition and vocabulary skills.
- Encourages parent-child interaction and collaboration and helps build a positive attitude towards learning.

## Alphabet Scavenger Hunt

**Objective:** To enhance young children's literacy skills by introducing them to the letters of the alphabet and familiarizing them with different objects that start with each letter.



### Materials:

- Paper
- Pen or pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- Magazines, catalogs, or newspapers
- Timer

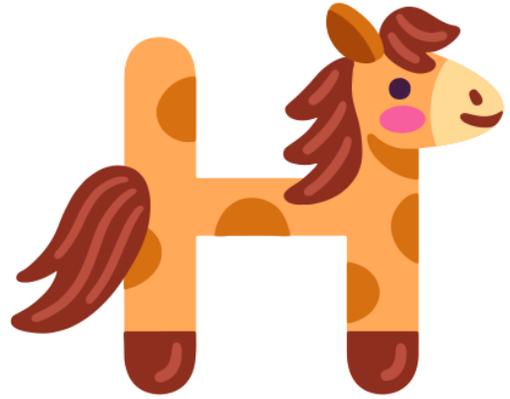
### Instructions:

1. Explain to your child that they will be going on an alphabet scavenger hunt. Tell them that they need to find objects in the house that start with each letter of the alphabet.
2. Give your child a sheet of paper and a pen or pencil. Ask them to write down the letters of the alphabet in order from A to Z.
3. Set a timer for 10-15 minutes and let your child search for objects around the house that start with each letter of the alphabet. Encourage your child to think creatively and find objects that may not be obvious.
4. Once your child has found an object for each letter, cut out pictures of those objects from magazines, catalogues, or newspapers. Alternatively, your child can draw pictures of the objects.
5. Help your child glue the pictures onto a separate piece of paper in alphabetical order.
6. Once the pictures are glued down, go through the alphabet with your child, pointing to each picture and saying the letter and the name of the object.
7. For an added challenge, you can ask your child to write the names of the objects next to the pictures.



Benefits:

- Encourages children to think creatively and use their imagination.
- Helps children learn the alphabet and the names of different objects.
- Improves literacy and language skills.
- Promotes family bonding and learning.



## My Favourite Book

**Objective:** To encourage young children to share their favourite stories and engage in conversation with their family members.

**Materials:**

- A variety of books that the child is familiar with
- Writing materials (pen and paper or digital device)

**Instructions:**

1. Start by gathering together as a family and explaining that you will be sharing and discussing each other's favourite books.
2. Ask each family member to choose one of their favourite books and to take turns sharing what they love about it. Encourage the child to talk about their favourite book in their own words, asking questions to prompt them if needed.
3. After everyone has had a chance to share, have each family member write or draw a picture of the cover of their favourite book, along with a few sentences about why they love it.
4. Once everyone has completed their drawing and writing, share the finished products with each other, allowing each family member to explain what they have created.
5. Finally, display the drawings and writings somewhere visible in the home, such as on the fridge or a bulletin board, as a reminder of everyone's favourite books.

**Variations:**

- If the child is not yet able to read or write, have them draw a picture of their favourite book and ask them to describe it to the family.
- To make the activity more challenging for older children, have them choose a book that they haven't read yet but would like to, and write a short summary of what they think it might be about based on the cover and any other information they have.



## Sight Word Stairs

Objective: To encourage children to practice reading common everyday words in a fun way.

Materials:

- Pens, pencils, markers, or pencil crayons
- Paper or index cards
- Scissors

Instructions:

1. Write 20-40 age-appropriate words on index cards or paper.
2. Cut the words out into medium sized rectangles.
3. Put one word card on each stair in your home.
4. Explain to your child that every time they go up or down the stairs in your home, they must read the words as they take steps.
5. Once your child has mastered the words, change the words to new ones.

Variations:

- If your child is not reading yet, write letters of the alphabet on the cards. Have the child read the letters as they take a step.
- Write age-appropriate math equations or numbers on the cards. They must read the number or solve the equation each time they take a step.



## Rhyming Basket

**Objective:** To encourage children to recognize word sounds, specifically rhyming words. Children will learn to spell similar sounding words while having fun.

**Materials:**

- Any basket, bowl, or bucket
- Paper
- Pen, pencil, or markers

**Instructions:**

1. Choose a word sound, for example, “all.”
2. Have your child practice saying the sound.
3. Choose a basket, bowl, or bucket to use as the “rhyming basket.”
4. Have your child find things from around your home that rhyme with the word sound you chose. For example, if you are using the sound “all,” they might put a ball in the rhyming basket.
5. Once the basket is full, have your child print the rhyming words on a piece of paper and read them back to you to make sure they rhyme.

**Variations:**

- Choose a letter of the alphabet. Have your child bring you only items that start with that letter.
- Create 2-4 baskets labelled with rhyming sounds or letters. Have your child organize a collection of items into the appropriate basket.



## Toy Alphabetization

Objective: To encourage children to recognize letter sounds and begin to spell words.

Materials:

- Various toys found in your home
- Paper or index cards
- Pen, pencil, crayons, or markers

Instructions:

1. Write each letter of the alphabet on a small piece of paper or index card.
2. Lay the letters out on the floor in an open space.
3. Have your child organize their toys by deciding what letter that toy starts with and placing it with the corresponding letter card.
4. When they are done, discuss the groups of toys with them. Ask them...
5. Are there any letters that have no toys with them?
6. Which letter has the greatest number of toys?

Variations:

- Instead of organizing their toys alphabetically, have them sort the toys by colour. They can make a label for each colour to practice spelling the colours.



- If 26 letters are too many, choose a select number of letters and have your child find toys that start with the letters you have chosen.



## Sight Word Tallies

Objective: To encourage children to read while recognizing common words.

Materials:

- Paper
- Pen, pencil, crayons, or markers
- Age-appropriate books

Instructions:

1. Make a list of common sight words.
2. Choose an age-appropriate book.
3. Depending on your child's age, have them read you the book, or you read the book to your child.
4. As you read, look for the words on your list.
5. As you find your chosen words, keep a tally of how many times you find the word in the book.
6. When you have finished reading the book, discuss the outcomes. Ask your child...
7. Which word did we find the most times?
8. Which word did we find the least number of times?
9. Do you remember seeing any other words more than once?

Variations:

- As a continuance of this activity, have your child create a chart or graph to display their findings.
- Repeat the activity with alternate word lists and books.



## Rhyming Ice Cream Cones

**Objective:** To practice recognizing patterns in language that will help with reading and spelling.

**Materials:**

- Paper (coloured construction paper optional)
- Markers, crayons, pens, or pencils
- Scissors

**Instructions:**

1. Have your child draw 4-6 ice cream cones or cut them out of construction paper.
2. Next, draw and/or cut out 12-18 scoops of ice cream. You can choose to use coloured paper or use white paper and have your child colour the scoops of ice cream.
3. On the cones, write word family sounds. For example, “all” or “at.”
4. On the scoops of ice cream, write various words that fit into your chosen word families. Each scoop of ice cream must have a word on it that rhymes with one of the cones.
5. Lay the cones out on a flat surface.
6. Practice saying the sounds with your child.
7. Place the scoops of ice cream in a pile you have mixed up.
8. Have your child match the scoops of ice cream to the cone. The words on the scoops of ice cream must rhyme with the word sound on the cone.
9. When all the ice cream cones have been assembled, have your child read the word families out loud.

**Variations:**

- Write letters on the scoops of ice cream and have your child make a word by stacking the letters onto a cone. Have them spell the word and read it to you once they have assembled their cones.
- Write numbers on the cones and have your child stack the corresponding number of scoops of ice cream onto the cone. Then, have your child count the scoops aloud.



## Giant Word Searches

Objective: To encourage word recognition and reading in a fun environment.

Materials:

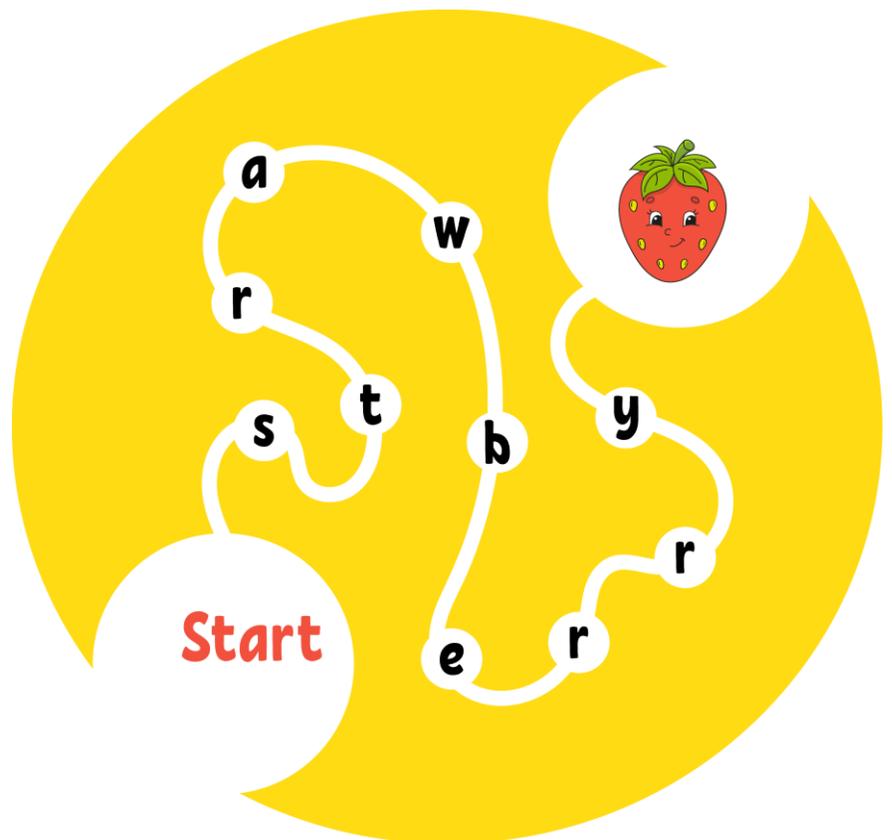
- Large pieces of paper, or a roll of blank paper
  - Alternatively, you can tape 8 ½ x 11 papers together to make a large piece of paper.
- Markers, pens, crayons, or pencils

Instructions:

1. Choose at least 10 words to practice.
2. Write them on a piece of paper, or have your child write them on a piece of paper.
3. Using your large piece of paper, create a word search by hiding your chosen words amongst random letters.
4. Have your child find the hidden words and circle them.
5. When they have found all the words, have them read the words aloud to you.

Variations:

- Do this activity outdoors by drawing the word search with sidewalk chalk.



## Marshmallow Letter Matching

**Objective:** To practice letter recognition and matching. Begin to create small words using letters to build.

**Materials:**

- Markers
- Paper
- Large marshmallows

**Instructions:**

1. Write 8-12 short words on a piece of paper.
2. Draw a circle around each letter.
3. Write the corresponding letters on large marshmallows using a marker.
4. Ask your child to match the marshmallow letters to the letters on the piece of paper, reading the letters aloud as they place them.
5. When they have completed a marshmallow word, have them spell the word aloud letter by letter and say the word.
6. As an added challenge, ask them to try spelling words that are not on the piece of paper, using the marshmallows.

**Variations:**

- For younger children, just have them match letters, without spelling a word.
- Print a variety of pictures of objects or cut them out of magazines. For each object, ask your child to place the marshmallow letter on the picture where the first letter matches the marshmallow letter.



# Outdoor Family Literacy Activities

There are many fun and engaging outdoor family literacy activities that can help promote reading and language skills for children of all ages. Here are some ideas:

- **Story Walks:** Take a favourite children's book and create a “story walk” by placing laminated pages of the book along a path in a park or other outdoor space. As you walk along the path, read the story together.
- **Nature Journaling:** Take a walk in nature and encourage children to observe and record what they see in a nature journal. Have them draw pictures and write descriptions of plants, animals, and other natural objects they encounter.
- **Outdoor Book Club:** Choose a book to read as a family and then plan a picnic or outdoor gathering to discuss it. Ask each family member to share their favourite parts and discuss the themes and messages of the book.
- **Alphabet Scavenger Hunt:** Create a scavenger hunt where children search for items in nature that start with each letter of the alphabet. For example, “A” could be for acorns, “B” for butterflies, “C” for clouds, and so on.
- **Outdoor Writing Prompts:** Bring a notebook or clipboard and have children complete writing prompts while outside. For example, they could write a story about a tree they see or describe the sounds they hear in nature.
- **Outdoor Theater:** Choose a favourite children's book and act it out in an outdoor setting. Use props and costumes to make it even more fun.
- **Poetry Picnic:** Pack a picnic lunch and bring along a book of poetry. Take turns reading and reciting poems aloud as you enjoy your meal in a park or other outdoor space.
- In the winter, when there is snow, have your child write words in the snow with a stick. Alternatively, you can have them write words in the snow using homemade snow paint. Simply add food colouring to water.
- Using magnetic letters, rocks you have written letters on, or any other item you can write letters on, bury the letters in a sandbox or hide them around your yard. Have your child find all the letters in the alphabet.
- Have your child collect rocks on a walk around your neighbourhood or in your yard. Write letters on the rocks with a marker. Have your child make words with the rocks and read them to you.

- Hang words printed on paper from a fence, clothesline, or tree. Have your child read the word, then squirt it with a water gun when they have successfully read the word.
- Collect sticks, rocks, leaves, and anything else from nature. Use the items to make letters and/or words.
- Label buckets or baskets with word family sounds. Label various balls with words from the chosen word families. Have your child toss the balls into the corresponding word sound bucket or basket.
- Use sidewalk chalk to create a giant word search, play hangman, or practice writing words and grouping words by sounds and letters.
- Create a word scavenger hunt. Have your child make a “picture list,” by drawing a picture of various things you might see outside. Go for a walk or somewhere in nature and search for the things on your list. Have your child write the word beside the picture when you see the item.
- Go on a walk and read as many signs as you can. As a bonus, bring a clipboard or book to write in and write the words down from the signs you see.

Remember, the key to successful family literacy activities is to make them fun and engaging for everyone involved. By combining reading and language activities with outdoor play and exploration, you can help children develop a love of learning and a lifelong appreciation for the natural world.



# Family Literacy Games

There are many fun and engaging literacy games that families can play together to help develop children's reading and writing skills. Here are some examples:



- **Scrabble:** This classic game challenges players to create words from letter tiles and earn points based on the complexity of the word. It is a great way to build vocabulary and spelling skills.
- **Boggle:** In this game, players shake a cube with lettered dice inside, then have to find as many words as possible within a set time limit. It is a fun way to encourage kids to think creatively about language and practice spelling and word recognition.
- **Bananagrams:** Similar to Boggle, this game challenges players to build words from letter tiles, but it has a faster pace and can be played by just a few people at a time. It is a great option for younger children who might find traditional Scrabble too challenging.
- **Mad Libs:** This game involves filling in the blanks of a story with silly words and phrases, leading to hilarious results. It is a great way to encourage kids to think about different parts of speech, like nouns, verbs, and adjectives.

- **Storytelling games:** There are many different games that encourage families to create stories together. For example, one person might start a story, and then each family member takes turns adding to it. This can help children develop their imagination and storytelling skills, as well as their ability to organize their thoughts and express themselves clearly.



- **Apples to Apples:** A fun party game that promotes literacy skills through word association.
- **Hangman:** A guessing game where one player thinks of a word and the other player(s) try to guess the word by suggesting letters.
- **Story Cubes:** A storytelling game where players roll dice with different images and use the images to create a story.
- **Charades:** A word guessing game where players act out a word or phrase without speaking, while others try to guess what they're acting out.
- **Word search puzzles:** A game where players find and circle words hidden in a grid of letters.
- **Reading BINGO:** A game where players fill in squares on a BINGO card by reading books or completing literacy activities, such as writing a story or practicing spelling words.



- **Memory:** Write at least 10 words twice and cut the words out into even rectangles. Flip the words over so you cannot see them. Try to find matches by taking turns flipping 2 words over at a time. When you do not find a match, try to remember where the words are and flip the words back over so they cannot be seen. Try to remember where the words are as you try to find matches.
- **Sight Word BINGO:** A game where players fill in squares on a BINGO card as someone calls out sight words to them.
- **Sight Word Go Fish:** Create a Go Fish game using sight words. Write 24 different sight words twice, on two different index cards. Follow the rules of the traditional Go Fish game. For example, instead of asking if your opponent has an ace of hearts, you might ask, do you have the word “car?” If your opponent has the word “car,” they must give it to you to make a pair. The first person to have no cards left is the winner.





## Family Numeracy Activities

### Guess My Number

Objective: To encourage young children to practice number recognition and counting.

Materials:

- Paper and pencil
- A set of number cards (you can make these by writing numbers 1-100 on index cards or cutting them out of paper)

Instructions:

1. Choose a number between 1-100 and write it down on a piece of paper. Do not show the number to anyone else.
2. Shuffle the number cards and lay them out face down on a table.
3. The first player picks a number card and announces the number on the card.
4. The person who chose the number on the paper tells the player whether the chosen number is higher or lower than the announced number.
5. The player uses this information to guess another number card. If the player chooses the correct number, they get a point.
6. The game continues with each player taking turns until someone correctly guesses the chosen number. That person is declared the winner.

Variations:

- For younger children who are still learning their numbers, you can play this game with numbers 1-20 or 1-30.
- To make the game more challenging, you can increase the range of numbers from 1-200 or even 1-1000.

- To incorporate addition and subtraction, you can have the player who guessed incorrectly add or subtract a certain number from their next guess. For example, if they guessed 50 and the correct number was higher, they could add 10 and guess 60 on their next turn.

$$1 + 2 = 3$$

$$3 - 2 = 1$$

$$1 \times 2 = 2$$

$$3 \times 2 = 6$$

## Scavenger Hunt Math

Objective: To practice basic math skills such as addition, subtraction, and multiplication while searching for and counting objects around the house.

Materials:

- Pen and paper
- A list of objects to search for (e.g., spoons, books, socks, pencils, cups)
- A calculator (optional)

Instructions:

1. Write a list of objects to search for on a piece of paper. Try to include a variety of objects that can be found around the house.
2. Give each child a copy of the list and explain that they will need to search for and count each item on the list.
3. Encourage your child to count the objects they find using different math skills. For example, they could add up the total number of objects they find, or they could practice multiplication by counting the number of objects in each group (e.g., how many pieces of cutlery are in the kitchen?).



4. If your child needs help with addition, subtraction, or multiplication, use a calculator to help them work out the answers.
5. Once all the objects have been found and counted, review the answers with your child and discuss the math skills they used.

Variations:

- Make the scavenger hunt more challenging by adding more difficult math problems to the list.
- Have your child write their own list of objects and math problems for another family member to solve.
- Time the scavenger hunt to add an element of competition between siblings or family members.

This activity is a great way to make learning math fun and engaging for children, while also helping them develop important numeracy skills.



## Budgeting Challenge

**Objective:** To set a budget for a hypothetical family and make decisions on how to allocate the budget among various expenses.

**Materials:**

- Pen and paper
- Calculator (optional)

**Instructions:**

1. Begin by explaining to your family that you will be setting a budget for a hypothetical family. Start by deciding on the total amount of money the family has to spend for the month. You can use a realistic number based on your own family's budget, or come up with a number for the purposes of the activity.
2. Write down a list of expenses that the family will need to pay for during the month. This can include rent or mortgage, utilities, groceries, transportation, entertainment, and any other expenses your family typically has.
3. Allocate the budget to each expense category. For example, if the family has \$2,000 to spend for the month and the rent is \$1,000, then allocate \$1,000 to the rent category.
4. Challenge your family members to come up with ways to stay within the budget while still meeting all of the necessary expenses. This can involve making decisions on what expenses to prioritize, how to cut back on certain expenses, or finding ways to earn more money if necessary.
5. After a few days, reconvene and review how everyone did with sticking to the budget. Discuss any challenges that came up and what could be done differently in the future to better manage the family's finances.

**Variations:**

- You can make the activity more challenging by setting a lower budget or by adding unexpected expenses (such as a car repair or medical bill).
- You can also make the activity more interactive by having family members take turns being in charge of the budget for a week or a month. This can help build financial decision-making skills and a sense of responsibility for managing money.



## Grocery Store Math

### Materials:

- A small toy cash register (or you can make one out of cardboard)
- Play money (or you can make some out of paper)
- Paper and pen

### Instructions:

1. Set up a pretend grocery store in your living room or kitchen. Use items from your pantry or play food toys to create a “store.”
2. Give your child a shopping list with a few items on it. For example, “2 apples, 1 loaf of bread, and 3 bananas.”
3. Show your child how to use the cash register and give them some play money to use.
4. Ask your child to find the items on the shopping list and bring them to the “cashier.”
5. Have your child “pay” for the items using the play money and help them count out the correct amount.
6. Ask your child to add up the total cost of the items and write it down on a piece of paper. You can also ask them to subtract the cost of the play money from the total to find out how much change they should receive.



### Variations:

- For older children, you can make the shopping list more complex or add more items.
- You can also ask your child to estimate the cost of the items before adding them up to see how close their estimate is to the actual cost.
- You can make the activity more challenging by asking your child to use mental math to add up the cost of the items instead of relying on the calculator on the cash register.

## Grocery Store Math 2

**Objective:** To practice numeracy skills while grocery shopping.  
You will need a grocery store and a shopping list.



**Materials:**

- A shopping list (you can make one ahead of time or create it together as a family)
- A calculator
- Pen or pencil

**Instructions:**

1. Before you head to the grocery store, make a shopping list together as a family. Include items that you need to buy and the estimated prices for each item. This will give you an idea of how much you will be spending at the store.
2. Once you are at the grocery store, give your children a calculator and have them keep track of the prices of the items you are putting in the cart. Encourage them to add up the prices as you go along.
3. For younger children, you can ask them to find the cheapest or most expensive item in a particular category (such as fruits or snacks). This will help them practice comparing numbers.
4. As you go through the store, ask your children to estimate the total cost of the items in your cart. This will help them practice their estimation skills.
5. At the checkout, have your children add up the total cost of the items using the calculator. Encourage them to double-check their work to make sure they did not make any mistakes.
6. After you have paid for your groceries, you can discuss the total cost of the items and how close your children's estimates were. You can also talk about ways to save money at the grocery store, such as buying items on sale or using coupons.

**Benefits:**

- Helps your family practice a variety of numeracy skills, including addition, estimation, and comparison.
- Teaches your children about budgeting and money management.



## Grocery Shopping Math

Objective: To practice basic math skills while grocery shopping.

Materials:

- A shopping list
- Calculator
- Budget (optional)

Instructions:

1. Start by creating a grocery list with your children. Ask them to help you find items in your pantry or fridge that need to be restocked and add those to the list. This will help your children develop an understanding of what they need to buy and why.
2. Before you leave for the store, decide on a budget (if applicable) and explain it to your children. For example, you can say, "We have \$50 to spend on groceries today. Let's see how much we can buy within our budget."
3. Once you get to the store, ask your children to find the items on the list and write down their prices. Encourage them to round up or down to the nearest dollar to make it easier to calculate the total later.
4. As you put items in the cart, ask your children to add up the prices using a calculator. This will help them practice addition and using a calculator.
5. Challenge your children to come up with ways to stay within your budget. For example, they can look for sales, compare prices between different brands, or choose less expensive options.
6. Once you have finished shopping, have your children add up the total cost of the groceries. Compare this to your budget and see how close you were.
7. Finally, challenge your children to estimate how much money you saved by finding deals and sticking to your budget. This will help them practice estimation skills.

Benefits:

- Helps children develop basic math skills and learn about budgeting and money management.
- Provides an opportunity to spend quality time with your children while running errands.



## Dice Math

Objective: To practice addition and subtraction skills with the use of dice.

Materials:

- Two dice
- Paper
- Pencil or pen

Instructions:

1. Roll the dice together as a family.
2. Write down the numbers that come up on the dice.
3. Decide as a group whether you want to add or subtract the two numbers.
4. If you choose addition, add the two numbers together and write down the answer.
5. If you choose subtraction, subtract the smaller number from the larger number and write down the answer.
6. Roll the dice again and repeat the process.
7. Keep a tally of the number of correct answers for each family member.
8. Play for a set amount of time or until a predetermined number of correct answers has been reached.



Variations:

- To make the game more challenging, you can use three or four dice instead of two.
- To make the game easier for younger children, you can limit the numbers on the dice to 1-3 or 1-4.
- You can also switch up the operations, such as multiplying or dividing the two numbers instead of adding or subtracting them.

## Number Hunt

**Objective:** To help young children develop their counting and number recognition skills while also keeping them engaged and entertained.

**Materials:**

- A pen or marker
- Paper
- Small objects (e.g., toys, blocks, buttons)

**Instructions:**

1. Take a piece of paper and draw ten circles on it.
2. Write a number from 1-10 inside each circle.
3. Hide small, numbered objects around the house (or a specific room).
4. Ask your child to find the objects and bring them back to the paper.
5. Once your child has found an object, ask them to place it in the circle that matches the number on the object. For example, if your child finds a toy car with the number 5 on it, they would place it in the circle with the number 5.
6. Keep going until all the circles have been filled with objects.

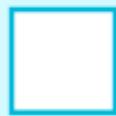
**Variations:**

- To make the activity more challenging, you can use larger numbers and/or hide the objects in more difficult-to-find places.
- You can also use different types of objects to make the activity more interesting for your child.

**Benefits:**

- Helps your child develop their counting and number recognition skills.
- Helps your child develop their observation and problem-solving skills.
- A fun and engaging way to spend time with your child while also helping them learn.

# Lets Count



## Counting Book

Objective: To create a counting book to practice numeracy.

Materials:

- Construction paper or plain paper
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue

Instructions:

1. Fold a piece of construction paper in half to create a book cover. If you are using plain paper, you can cut out a cover from construction paper and glue it onto the front and back of the book.
2. On the cover, write the title of the book, such as "My Counting Book."
3. Cut out several pieces of paper that will fit inside the book cover.
4. On each page, draw a picture of an object or animal that your child likes, such as a flower, car, cat, or ball.
5. Next to the picture, write a number that corresponds to the number of objects in the picture. For example, if you drew a picture of three flowers, write the number 3 next to the flowers.
6. Help your child count the objects in each picture, and then have them write the corresponding number next to the picture. This will help them practice counting and writing numbers.
7. If you want to make the book more interactive, you can also have your child glue the corresponding number of objects onto the page. For example, if the picture is of two cats, your child can glue two cat stickers or cut out two cat shapes from construction paper and glue them onto the page.

Variations:

- Once the book is complete, your child can use it to practice counting and recognizing numbers.
- They can also show it off to family and friends, and even make additional counting books with different themes.

Benefit:

- A great way to promote numeracy skills in a fun and engaging way.



5 3 2



6 5 9



4 7 3



2 4 1



2 8 5

## Number Hunt 2

Objective: To help children practice counting, number recognition, and basic addition skills.

Materials:

- A piece of paper
- Pen
- Various small objects, such as coins, buttons, or small toys

Instructions:

1. Begin by explaining the game to your child. Tell them that they will be going on a number hunt, where they will search for numbers around the house.
2. Give your child the piece of paper and pen and ask them to draw a table with three columns. Label the first column "Object," the second column "Number," and the third column "Total."
3. Next, ask your child to collect a handful of small objects from around the house, such as coins, buttons, or small toys. Have them place the objects in a pile on the table.
4. Explain to your child that they will be searching for numbers on everyday objects around the house, such as on a clock, a calendar, or a phone. Ask them to search for numbers one at a time, starting with the number 1.
5. When your child finds a number, have them write it down in the second column of their table, next to the object that the number was found on.
6. Once your child has found the number 1, have them count one of the objects from the pile and write the total in the third column of the table.
7. Encourage your child to continue searching for numbers, counting objects, and writing down the totals in the third column of the table.
8. Once your child has found all the numbers from 1-10, have them add up all of the totals in the third column of the table to find the final total.
9. Congratulate your child on a job well done and ask them to think about what they learned about numbers and counting during the game.

Variation:

- This activity can be modified to suit the age and skill level of your child, by adjusting the difficulty of the numbers to be found or the complexity of the objects used for counting.

## Finger Counting Hands

Objective: To help children practice counting, adding, and subtracting with numbers 0-10.

Materials:

- Pen, pencil, or markers
- Paper
- Scissors
- Glue

Instructions:

1. Trace your child's hands.
2. Cut the traced hands out.
3. Glue only the palm of each traced hand onto another piece of paper so the paper fingers are loose and can be manipulated.
4. Use the hands to practice counting.
5. Additionally, you can have them solve basic addition and subtraction questions using the hands to help them solve the problem.



## Making Tallies with Pretzels

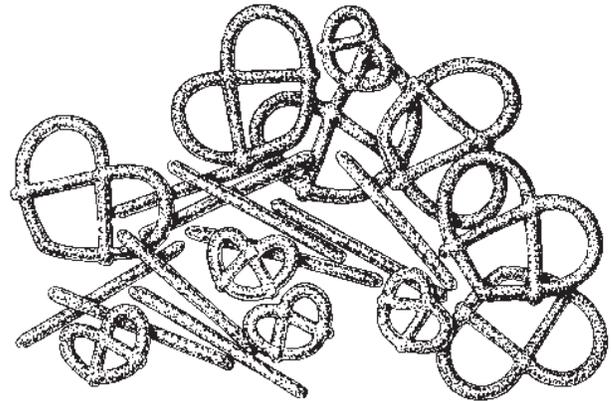
Objective: To practice counting and keeping a tally of items.

Materials:

- Pretzel sticks
- Groups of various small objects, such as Lego pieces, buttons, or cereal

Instructions:

1. Create at least 5 groups of small objects.
2. Have your child count each group of small objects one group at a time.
3. Each time your child finishes counting a group of small objects have them create a tally using pretzel sticks.
4. When all groups have been counted and tallies have been made for each group, discuss the findings with your child. Ask your child...
5. Which group has the most items?
6. Which group has the least number of items?
7. Can you add all the numbers together?
8. What is the total number of items in all the groups?



Variations:

- Have your child draw various items, count the items, and make tallies with pretzel sticks.
- Have your child roll 2 dice, add the numbers on the dice together and make a pretzel tally for that total number.
- Provide your child with a list of random small numbers. Have them make tallies with pretzels for each number on the list.
- Have your child draw a card from a deck of cards. Ask them to make a pretzel tally for the number they have drawn.

## Place Value with Lego

Objective: To practice recognizing place value and creating 10 blocks.

Materials:

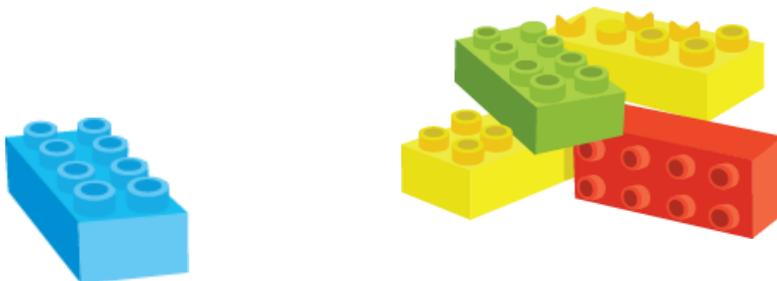
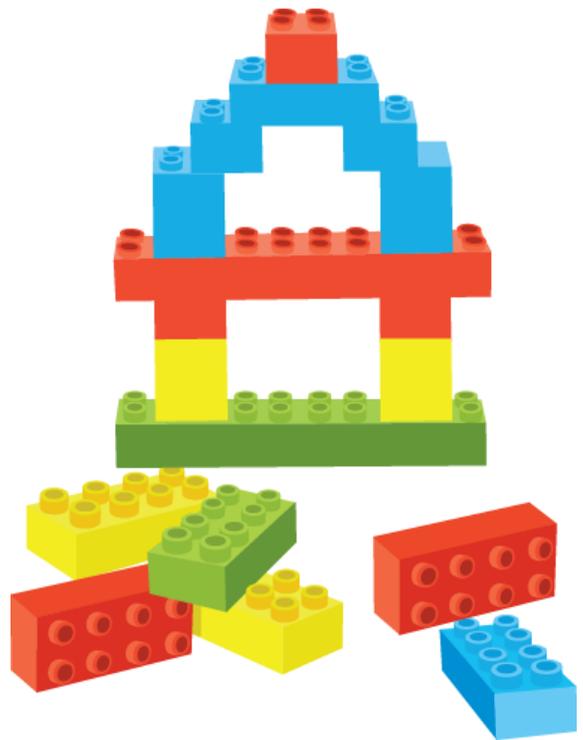
- Lego or building blocks
- Paper
- Pen or pencil

Instructions:

1. Make a list of one to five-digit numbers.
2. Ask your child to build each number using Lego or building blocks to display place value. For example, if the number is 374, your child should build a 3-block tower, 7-block tower and 4-block tower, and display them in that order.

Variations:

- If your child is younger, give them a list of one-digit numbers. Ask them to build towers using the number of blocks that corresponds to each number on the list.
- Use blocks or Lego as counters to solve addition and subtraction questions. For example, to solve  $2 + 2$ , the child would put 2 blocks together, then put another set of 2 blocks together, then put the 2 sets together and count every block, which would equal 4.



## Parking Garage Number Matching

Objective: To practice number recognition and matching.

Materials:

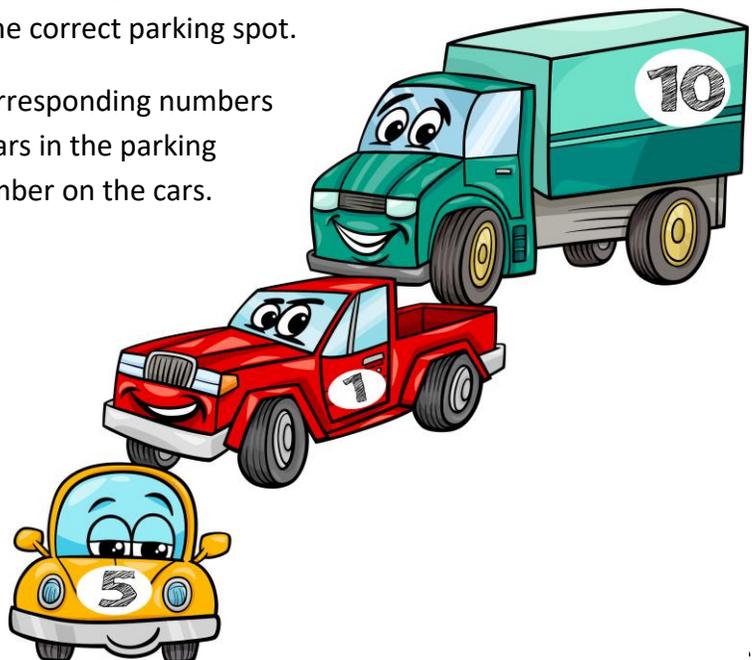
- Various toy cars
- Paper or cardboard
- Markers, pens, or pencils
- Tape or blank label stickers

Instructions:

1. Draw a parking lot on a piece of paper or cardboard.
2. Number each parking spot with various random numbers depending on the age of your child.
3. Write the same numbers you used to number your parking spots on small pieces of paper or blank label stickers.
4. Tape the numbered paper or stickers to various toy cars.
5. Ask your child to park all of the cars in the correct parking spot according to the number on the car.

Variations:

- Write addition or subtraction questions on the stickers or small pieces of paper. Write the answers to the questions in the parking spaces. Ask your child to solve the equation to park the cars in the correct parking spot.
- Write tallies in the parking spots and corresponding numbers on the cars. Ask your child to park the cars in the parking spot with the tally that matches the number on the cars.



## Marshmallow Number Matching

**Objective:** To practice number recognition skills by using 1-digit numbers to create 2 or 3-digit numbers.

**Materials:**

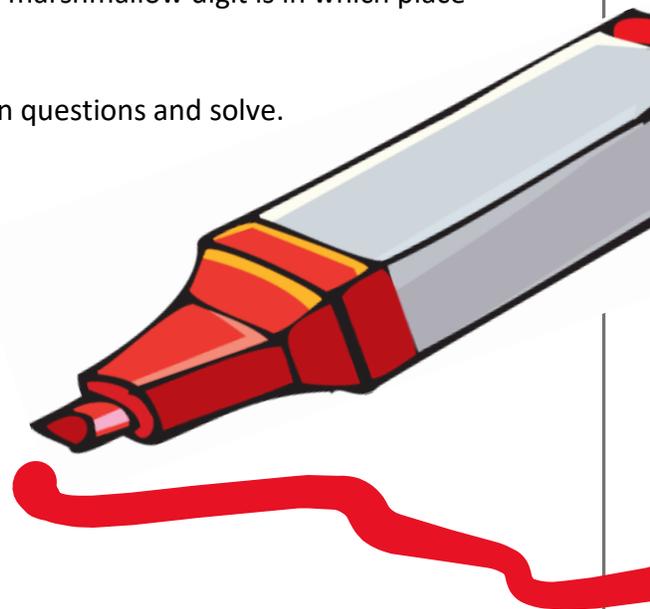
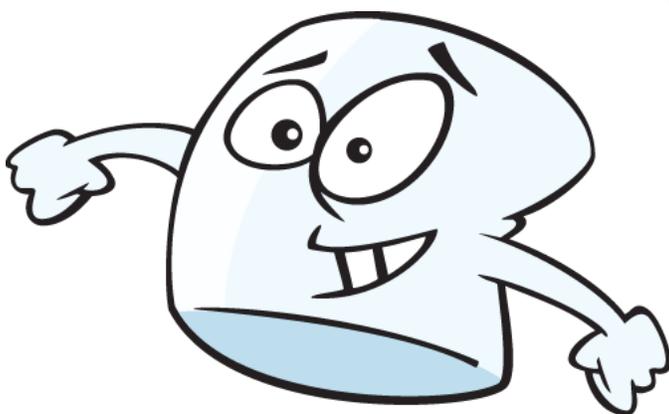
- Large marshmallows
- Markers
- Paper

**Instructions:**

1. Using a piece of paper, write various 2 or 3-digit numbers. Draw a circle around each digit.
2. Using a marker, write corresponding numbers on large marshmallows.
3. Ask your child to choose a marshmallow and read the number to you.
4. Then, have your child place the numbered marshmallow on a matching digit on the piece of paper.
5. When a marshmallow number is complete, ask your child to read you the new larger number.

**Variations:**

- On the piece of paper, create larger numbers such as 5 and 6-digit numbers for older children.
- Incorporate discussion about place value. For example, which marshmallow digit is in which place value column.
- Use the marshmallow digits to create addition and subtraction questions and solve.



## Household Monetary System

**Objective:** To teach money and number sense and to encourage budgeting and counting money.

**Materials:**

- Imitation money (can be homemade)
- Paper
- Pens, pencils, or markers

**Instructions:**

1. Make or buy imitation money.
2. Have a family meeting to discuss the activity. Explain to your family that they will be earning imitation money for specific tasks and good deeds. They will also have to use their imitation money to purchase rewards such as screen time, special outings or treats.
3. As a family, decide on a task value list. Choose someone in the family to make the list or chart to record all the values. For example, every time your child cleans his room, they earn \$2 of imitation money.
4. As a family, decide on a rewards value list. Choose someone in the family to make the list or chart to record all reward values. For example, 30 minutes of screen time will cost \$3.
5. Choose a start date and a banker. The banker will be in charge of all imitation money exchanges. It will be wise to choose an adult to be the banker.
6. Have your child track their earnings and spending in a notebook or on paper.
7. On a regular basis, review your child's budget with them. You can take this opportunity to practice adding and subtracting money. You can discuss what rewards your child is spending the most on.
8. 8. You can also update the tasks and rewards charts on a regular basis to accommodate new needs and wants.

**Variations:**

- Instead of using imitation money, you can use points, stickers, or tokens. Any kind of tracking system will work. For older kids, you can have them create a budget.



## Popsicle Stick Matching

Objective: To practice number identification and counting.

Materials:

- Popsicle sticks (preferably wide ones)
- Markers

Instructions:

1. Give your child 10 popsicle sticks. Ask your child to write the numbers 1-10 on the end of each popsicle stick.
2. Give your child another 10 popsicle sticks. Ask them to draw a specific number of the same shape or object on each popsicle stick. The number of each object on each stick should correspond to the numbers on the other set of popsicle sticks. For example, on one stick draw 1 star, on another 2 circles, etc.
3. Mix the popsicle sticks up.
4. Ask your child to match the number popsicle stick to the popsicle stick with the objects drawn on it. The number of objects should match the number on the other popsicle stick.

Variation:

- Write math equations on half of the popsicle sticks and answers on the other half. Ask your child to match the equation to the answer.



## Cereal Counting

Objective: To use cereal to practice counting, adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing.

Materials:

- Cereal (e.g., Cheerios or Fruit Loops)
- Paper
- Pencil or pen

Instructions:

1. Give your child a bowl of dry cereal.
2. Ask your child to count out specific numbers of pieces of cereal. For example, say, “make me a group of 12 pieces of cereal.”
3. Alternatively, give your child equations to solve using the cereal as counters. For example, solve  $14 - 6$ .
4. Have them write the numbers or equations they have solved on a piece of paper.



## Grocery Store Scavenger Hunt

Objective: To recognize, understand and write monetary values.

Materials:

- Grocery store flyers
- Scissors
- Glue
- Paper
- Pen or pencil
- Clipboard or hardcover book



Instructions:

1. Using grocery store flyers, cut out several items with your child.
2. Glue the cut-out items onto a piece of paper. Leave space underneath or beside each item you glue on to the piece of paper.
3. Use this piece of paper as your scavenger hunt list.
4. Go to a grocery store.
5. As you walk around the grocery store, have your child look for the items on their scavenger hunt list. When they find the item, have them write the price of that item on their list.

Variations:

- Cut out items from the flyer you will be buying. Bring a calculator and have your child enter the amounts into a calculator as they find them. This will help them practice budgeting.
- Each time you find an item from your list in the store, instead of writing the exact cost down, have your child round the cost to the nearest dollar. Then estimate how much the grocery bill will be before you check out.



# Outdoor Family Numeracy Activities

1. **Scavenger Hunt:** Create a list of math-related items for children to find outside, such as geometric shapes, numbers, and patterns. Encourage them to use counting and basic math skills to keep track of how many items they find.
2. **Nature Math:** Take a walk outside and have your children count the number of birds, trees, flowers, or other natural objects they see. You can also ask them to estimate the height of a tree or the length of a leaf, and then measure to see how close their estimate was.
3. **Sidewalk Chalk Math:** Use sidewalk chalk to create math equations or number games on the pavement outside. You can also draw shapes and ask your children to count the sides or angles.
4. **Garden Math:** If you have a garden, involve your children in measuring the space, calculating how much soil or fertilizer is needed, and planning how many plants to grow.
5. **Outdoor Math Games:** There are many math games that can be played outside, such as hopscotch, four square, and bean bag toss. You can modify these games to include math questions or challenges.
6. **Measurement:** Encourage your children to measure objects outside using a ruler, tape measure, or other measuring tool. This could include measuring the height of a fence, the length of a path, or the circumference of a tree.
7. **Timekeeping:** Use a stopwatch or timer to time your children as they run or race outside. You can also use a clock or watch to practice telling time or calculating how much time has passed.
8. **Water Play:** Set up a water table or water play area outside and provide measuring cups, funnels, and other tools for children to explore volume and measurement.
9. **Geocaching:** Geocaching is a treasure hunt game that uses GPS technology. This can be a fun way to incorporate math skills while exploring the outdoors.

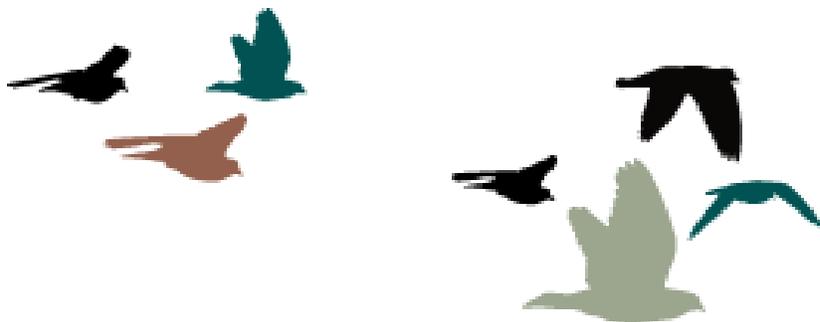


10. **Orienteering:** Orienteering is a sport that involves using a map and compass to navigate through a course. This can be a challenging and engaging way for older children to practice math skills such as geometry and trigonometry.

11. Go for a walk or sit out front of your house. Have your child count the number of cars that drive past you. Alternatively, create a chart and tally the number of different coloured cars that drive past you. As a bonus challenge, have your child create a bar graph to display the information they have tallied.
12. In the winter, use the snow to create shapes. Measure the height of a snowman you build as a family. Have a snowman building competition. Whomever builds the tallest snowman wins.
13. Draw targets with sidewalk chalk and assign points for each section. Throw bean bags into the target area. Add up your points.
14. Shoot water guns at targets and add up your points.
15. Stack disposable cups with numbers on them on a flat surface. Throw a ball at the stack of cups. Whatever cups fall down, you must add up the numbers written on the cups.
16. Draw a map of your neighbourhood and then use the map to go for a walk and try different routes.
17. Count flowers, rocks, or trees, then use sticks to practice tally numbers.
18. Fill and label water balloons with numbers 1-20. Write the corresponding numbers on pavement with sidewalk chalk. Have your child choose a balloon, find the corresponding number, and smash the balloon on the number.

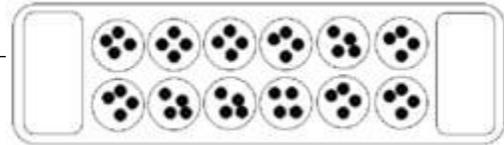


19. Make a giant clock using a skipping rope and sticks, or with sidewalk chalk. Practice telling time on the giant clock.
20. Write numbers all over a beach ball with a marker. Toss the ball back and forth. Each time you catch the ball, whatever numbers your thumbs are on, you must add together.



# Family Numeracy Games

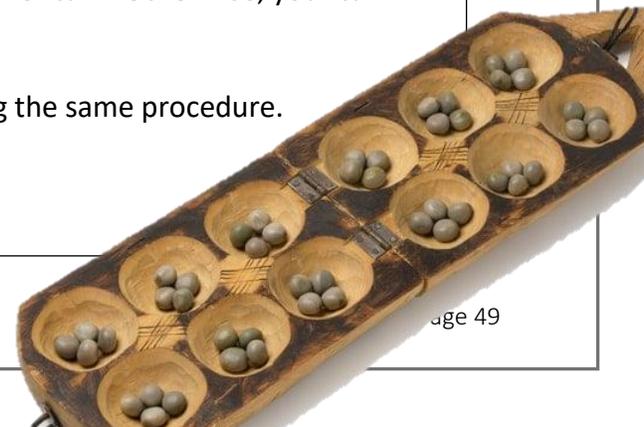
1. **Monopoly:** This classic board game involves many math skills, including counting, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Players have to keep track of money and calculate costs, rent, and interest.
2. **Yahtzee:** This dice game requires players to roll the dice and then use basic math skills to add up their scores. It is a great way to practice addition and probability.
3. **Math Dice:** This game comes with a set of dice and a target number. Players roll the dice and then use addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division to try to get as close to the target number as possible.
4. **Mancala:** This ancient African game involves moving beads around a board and counting them. It is a great way to practice counting and addition.



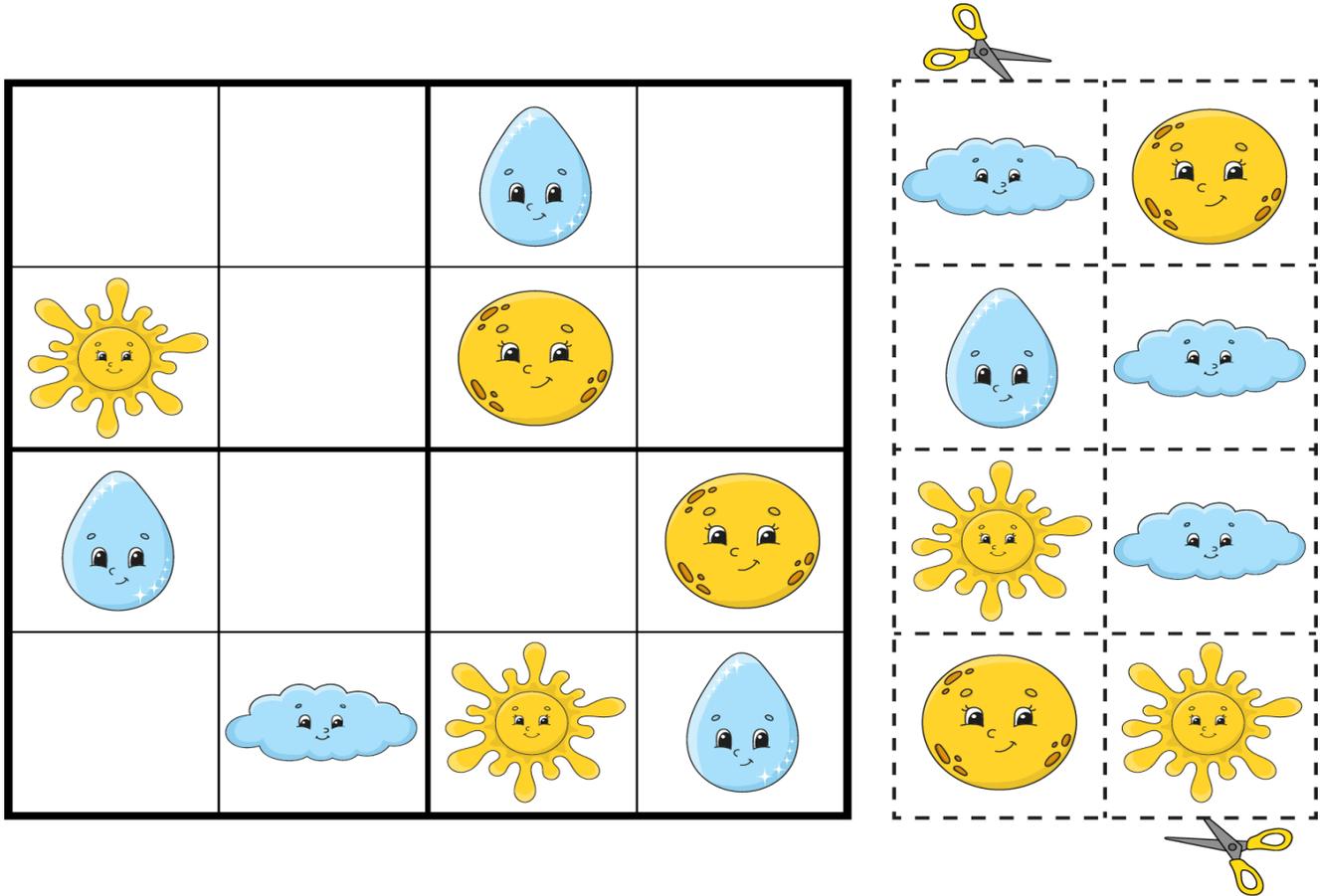
## Mancala rules for children

### Kalah

- The game board consists of two rows of 6 small pits (or “houses”), with a large storage pit at each end. Picture an egg carton with a bowl at each end.
- Four seeds are placed in each of the 12 houses.
- You and your opponent sit on opposite sides of the game board.
- The row in front of you is your row. The storage pit to your right is your storage pit.
- Let’s suppose you are the player who takes the first turn in the game.
- You begin by scooping up all the seeds in one of the “houses” on your side of the board. Then, moving counter-clockwise, you “sow” the seeds, one per house.
- If you get as far as your own storage pit, you drop a seed there, too. And if the last seed goes in your designated storage pit, you get another turn. Otherwise, your turn ends.
- The second player then takes his or her turn, following the same procedure.
- The game continues, with these alternating turns.



- Set:** This card game involves finding sets of three cards that match in certain ways, such as having the same shape, color, or number. It is a great way to practice pattern recognition and counting.
- Sudoku:** This puzzle game involves filling in a grid with numbers so that each row, column, and region contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. It is a great way to practice logic and problem-solving skills.



- Dominoes:** This game involves matching tiles with the same number of dots. It is a great way to practice counting and addition.
- Battleship:** This classic game involves plotting points on a grid to try to sink your opponent's ships. It is a great way to practice graphing and coordinate geometry.
- Card games:** Games like Uno, Skip-Bo, or Go Fish can all be great for practicing number recognition and basic arithmetic skills.
- Addition with a deck of cards:** Remove the Jacks, Kings and Queens from a deck of cards. Split the deck in half. Flip one card from each half of the deck. Add the two numbers together.
- Dice addition and subtraction:** Roll a set of dice. Add or subtract the numbers that appear. You can play this game with as many dice as you would like. You can alter the rules depending on how many dice you choose to use.

# Kitchen Literacy Activities

## Recipe Scavenger Hunt

Objective: To practice word recognition and reading comprehension.

Materials Needed:

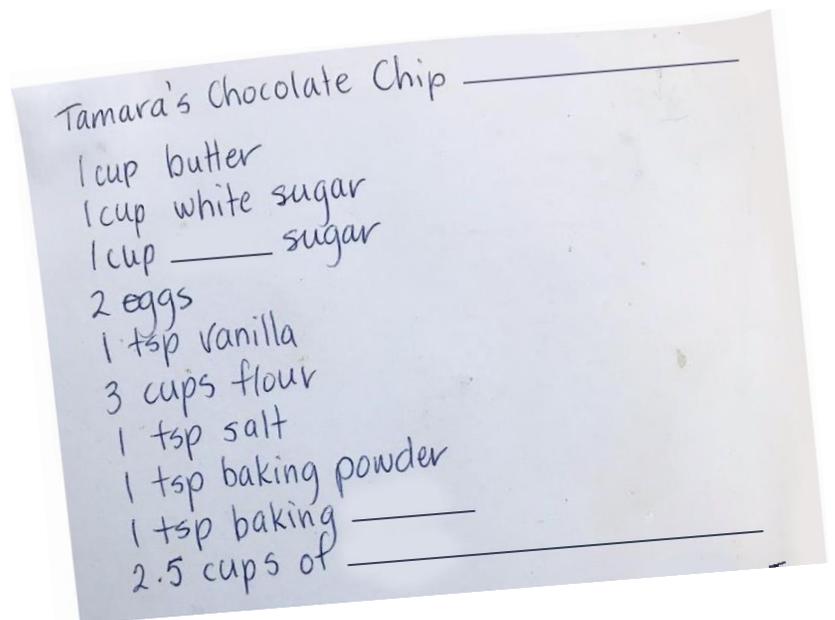
- Paper
- Pen
- Scissors

Instructions:

1. Choose a recipe that your family enjoys making together or find a new one to try.
2. Write out the recipe on a piece of paper but leave out some of the key words or phrases.
3. Cut out the missing words and phrases and put them on separate pieces of paper.
4. Hide the missing words and phrases around the kitchen. They could be taped to the fridge, hidden in a cookbook, or placed inside a measuring cup.
5. Ask your family to read the recipe and try to figure out what the missing words are.
6. Once all the missing words have been found, have your family work together to put the recipe back together correctly.
7. Finally, follow the recipe to make the dish together as a family.

Benefits:

- Promotes literacy skills such as reading and comprehension as well as teamwork and cooking skills.
- A fun way to get the whole family involved in the kitchen while also learning and practicing important literacy skills.



## Create a Recipe Book

**Objective:** To create a recipe book full of recipes chosen by your family.

**Materials:**

- Internet
- Paper
- Pens
- Computer and printer (optional)
- Binder or duotang (optional)



**Instructions:**

1. Start by asking each family member to share their favourite recipe. You can even ask extended family members or friends for their favourite recipes to include. Write down the recipe names on a piece of paper.
2. Next, have each family member write down their recipe on a recipe card or a piece of paper. Encourage younger children to draw pictures of the ingredients or the finished dish to go along with the recipe.
3. Once everyone has written down their recipe, organize them into categories such as “breakfast,” “lunch,” “dinner,” “desserts,” and “snacks.”
4. Have each family member decorate their recipe card or paper with stickers, drawings, or other embellishments. You can even create a cover page for your recipe book.
5. Punch holes in the recipe cards or papers and tie them together with string or ribbon. Alternatively, you can place them in a binder or folder.
6. Encourage family members to read the recipes aloud and discuss their favorite dishes. You can even try making some of the recipes together as a family.

**Benefits:**

- Promotes reading and writing skills as well as creativity, collaboration, and family bonding.
- A great way to involve everyone in the kitchen and create a keepsake that can be used for years to come.

## Recipe Reading and Writing

**Objective:** To develop literacy skills and promote family bonding through a fun and engaging cooking activity.

**Materials:**

- Recipe book or printed recipe
- Ingredients
- Cooking utensils.

**Instructions:**

1. Choose a simple recipe that your family would like to cook together. It could be a favourite family recipe or something new to try.
2. Before starting the cooking process, take some time to read the recipe aloud to your family. Point out the key ingredients and steps to help everyone understand what needs to be done.
3. Next, ask each family member to take turns reading a step or ingredient from the recipe. Encourage them to read the words carefully and pronounce them correctly.

### *My favourite dish*

#### Ingredients

1 red onion  
2 red peppers  
120 g bacon  
1 can (450 g) tomatoes  
1 cup water  
olive oil  
garlic  
oregano  
50 g pasta per person

#### Method

1. Cut the onion, red peppers and bacon into small pieces.
2. Heat some olive oil in a pan and fry the onion, red peppers and bacon.
3. Add oregano, garlic, tomatoes and water and cook for 20 minutes.
4. Cook the pasta in a big pot of boiling water.
5. Serve the pasta with the sauce, and enjoy!

4. As you go through the recipe, have each family member write down the ingredients and steps on a separate sheet of paper. This will help them practice their writing skills and also serve as a reference for future cooking sessions.
5. Once the recipe is read and written, it is time to start cooking! Encourage everyone to take turns measuring, mixing, and following the recipe steps. As you cook, you can also discuss any unfamiliar words or terms from the recipe and ask your family members to explain what they mean.
6. After the meal is prepared and cooked, sit down together and enjoy the fruits of your labour. You can use this time to talk about how the recipe turned out and how it tasted. Encourage your family members to use descriptive words to express their opinions and feelings.

Benefits:

- A great way to develop literacy skills, such as reading, writing, and communication, while also spending quality time with your family in the kitchen.
- Helps to build confidence and promote a sense of accomplishment as you work together to create a delicious meal.

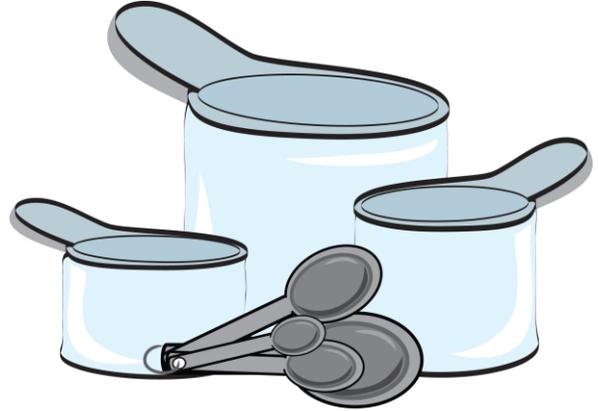


## Recipe Math

Objective: To practice doubling measurements in order to make a larger batch of a specific recipe.

Materials:

- A recipe that has multiple ingredients (e.g., a cake recipe, a salad recipe)
- Measuring cups and spoons
- A calculator
- Pen and paper



Instructions:

1. Choose a recipe that you would like to make with your family.
2. Review the recipe and identify all the ingredients that will be needed.
3. Look at the measurements for each ingredient (e.g.,  $1/2$  cup of sugar, 2 teaspoons of salt).
4. Ask your child to find the correct measuring cup or spoon for each ingredient and measure it out.
5. As you measure out each ingredient, have your child keep track of the amounts on a piece of paper or a whiteboard.
6. Once all the ingredients have been measured out, ask your child to add up the amounts to get the total amount of each ingredient needed for the recipe.
7. Using a calculator, help your child to double or halve the recipe, depending on how many servings you need.
8. Have your child measure out the new amounts for each ingredient based on the revised recipe.
9. Make the recipe together and enjoy!

Benefits:

- A great way to build your child's numeracy skills and help them understand how math is used in everyday life.
- Get hands-on practice with measuring and adding, as well as problem solving as they adjust the recipe for different serving sizes.
- Enjoy a delicious treat together at the end!

## Recipe Conversion Challenge

Objective: To practice converting measurements.

Materials:

- A recipe for a dish that your family enjoys
- A calculator
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Pen and paper

Instructions:

1. Choose a recipe that your family likes to make. It could be a recipe for a main dish, dessert, or snack.
2. Ask your family to help you convert the recipe for a different number of servings. For example, if the recipe is for four servings, ask your family to convert it to eight servings, or to two servings.

# Cooking Measurement

## Teaspoon & Tablespoon Measures

Dash or pinch =  $>1/8$  tsp  
1-1/2 tsp = 1/2 Tbsp  
3 tsp = 1 Tbsp; 1/2 fl oz  
4-1/2 tsp = 1-1/2 Tbsp  
2 Tbsp = 1/8 C; 1 fl oz  
4 Tbsp = 1/4 C; 2 fl oz  
8 Tbsp = 1/2 C; 4 fl oz  
12 Tbsp = 3/4 C; 6 fl oz  
16 Tbsp = 1 C; 8 fl oz; 1/2 pt

## Metric Volume Conversions

1 ml = 1/5 tsp  
5 ml = 1 tsp  
15 ml = 1 Tbsp  
60 ml = 1/4 C; 2 fl oz  
80 ml = 1/3 C  
125 ml = 1/2 C; 4 fl oz  
160 ml = 2/3 C  
180 ml = 3/4 C; 6 fl oz  
250 ml = 1 C; 8 fl oz



$$16 \text{ Tbsp} + 16 \text{ Tbsp} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ C (cups)}$$

3. Use the measuring cups and spoons to measure out the ingredients for the original recipe. Write down the measurements on a piece of paper.
4. Use the calculator to help you figure out how much of each ingredient you will need for the new serving size. For example, if the recipe calls for 1 cup of flour for four servings, you will need 2 cups of flour for 8 servings, or  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of flour for 2 servings.
5. Encourage your family to double-check your calculations and make any necessary adjustments.
6. Bake or cook the dish using the new measurements.
7. Enjoy your meal and discuss how math and numeracy skills were used to complete the recipe conversion challenge.

Benefits:

- Fun and engaging activity that helps children build skills in measurement, multiplication, division, and problem solving.
- A great way to bond as a family over a shared love of cooking and eating delicious food!

## Recipe Math 2

Objective: To practice basic math skills and reinforce the concept of measuring in a recipe.

Materials:

- A recipe that requires measuring ingredients
- Measuring cups and spoons
- A calculator (optional)

Instructions:

1. Choose a recipe that your family would like to make. It can be a simple recipe like chocolate chip cookies or a more complex recipe like lasagna.
2. Before starting to cook, have everyone look at the recipe and identify the different ingredients that will need to be measured. You can also discuss the different measurements (cups, tablespoons, teaspoons) and their abbreviations (c, tbsp, tsp).
3. Assign each family member a role in measuring out the ingredients. For example, one person can measure out the flour, another can measure out the sugar, and another can measure out the milk.
4. As each ingredient is measured, ask family members to add up the quantities and check to make sure that the amounts are correct. For example, if the recipe calls for 2 cups of flour and 1 cup of sugar, ask family members to add 2 and 1 to get 3 cups in total.
5. If you want to make the activity more challenging, you can ask family members to double or halve the recipe and recalculate the amounts needed.

After all the ingredients have been measured out and checked, you can continue with the recipe as usual.



Tips:

- Encourage everyone to work together and help each other out.
- Supervise young children when using kitchen tools like measuring cups and spoons.

Variations:

- Ask family members to estimate the amounts of each ingredient before measuring them to practice estimation skills.
- If you have a younger child who is just learning to count, you can ask them to count out the number of tablespoons or teaspoons needed for a specific ingredient.



## Pizza Topping Math

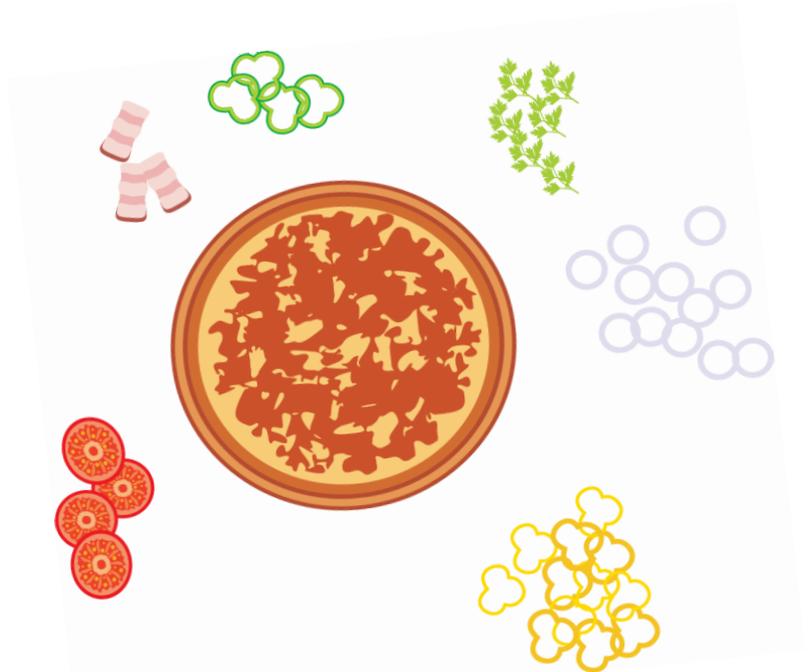
Objective: To practice counting and categorizing. Addition and subtraction can be incorporated.

Materials:

- Pizza dough
- Pizza sauce
- Pizza toppings of your choice
- Oven safe baking sheet
- Paper
- Pen or pencil

Instructions:

1. Give your child instructions for putting toppings on the pizza, including how many of each topping you want. They must count the toppings as they place them on the pizza. Alternatively, make the pizza, then count the toppings. Have your child write the names of each topping on a piece of paper and the corresponding number or tally.
2. Once you have counted all the toppings, create addition and subtraction questions. For example, how many toppings are on the pizza all together? Alternatively, how many toppings will be left if we take all the mushrooms off the pizza?
3. Once your pizza is cooked and ready to be served, have your child help decide how many slices you should cut. Create a division problem for them to solve. For example, if there are four people in our family and I cut the pizza into twelve slices, how many slices does each family member get?
4. When making the pizza, create fractions problems for your child to solve. For example, if there are 3 people in your family and only one person wants mushrooms on their pizza, what fraction of the pizza will have mushrooms on it? Have your child put the mushrooms on  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the pizza to display the fraction once they have solved the problem.



## Muffin Tin Coin Counting

Objective: To practice coin recognition and counting money.

Materials:

- Muffin tin
- Muffin tin liners
- Markers, pen, or pencil
- A variety of Canadian coins

Instructions:

1. Using a marker or pen, write a variety of different amounts of money on the inside of twelve muffin tin liners. Make sure to choose amounts that your child can make with the coins you will be providing them.
2. Place the muffin tin liners in the muffin tin.
3. Have your child sit somewhere with a flat surface. Give them a variety of Canadian coins and the muffin tin.
4. Ask them to read the dollar amounts in the muffin tins. Then, using the coins provided, place the corresponding amount of money in each muffin tin liner.

Variations:

- Number the muffin tin liners from 1 to 12. Place coins in each muffin cup. Give your child a piece of paper with the numbers 1 to 12 written on it. Have them count the money in each muffin cup and write the dollar amount on the piece of paper beside the corresponding number.
- For an extra challenge, ask them to add or subtract specific muffin cups. For example, what is the total amount of money in muffin cup 3 and muffin cup 6?



## Dough Math

Objective: To have fun practicing a variety of math activities using dough.

Materials:

- Store bought or homemade dough (you can use pastry dough or cookie dough)
- Flat surface
- Ruler
- Pen, pencil, or markers
- A piece of paper
- Child friendly kitchen tools for cutting and shaping dough

Instructions:

1. Create shapes with the dough by rolling and cutting it out. Use cookie dough so they can eat their shapes when they are done baking.
2. Incorporate measurement by having your child measure the shapes they have created using a ruler. Alternatively, if all of the cookies are the same shape, have them measure each cookie to make sure they are the same size and spread evenly apart on the baking sheet.
3. For younger children, incorporate counting into your baking. If the recipe says your batch will make 24 cookies, have your child count to make sure there are 24 cookies on the baking sheet. Count how many cookies are in each row and column.
4. Fractions can be incorporated by instructing your child to make different shapes, then creating fractions problems to solve. For example, what fraction of the cookies are triangles?



## Estimating

Objective: To practice estimation skills.

Materials:

- A variety of jars, packages, or boxes of food in your kitchen
- Paper
- Pen or pencil

Instructions:

1. Choose a variety of food items in your kitchen. Place them on a flat surface for your child to examine.
2. Ask your child to write down all of the items they are examining on a piece of paper. For example, jar of pickles, box of pasta.
3. Have your child estimate how many items are in each jar, box or package.
4. Discuss with your child why they made that guess, and how they came to that conclusion.
5. When possible, count the items in the jar, box or package and compare that number to your child's estimation. Further discussion can continue based on how close or far away their estimation was.

Variations:

- This activity can be incorporated into your cooking routine. On a daily basis, depending on what your child is going to eat, ask them to estimate how many items are in a specific container. For example, if you give your child a bowl of grapes, ask them how many grapes they think are in the bowl. Then, have them count to find the actual number before they eat the grapes.



## Geometry with Marshmallows and Pretzels



Objective: To practice 3-dimensional shape recognition and construction.

Materials:

- Small marshmallows
- Pretzel sticks
- Paper
- Markers, pen, pencil, or crayons



Instructions:

1. Start by creating a list of 3-dimensional shapes. Have your child write the words and/or draw the shapes on a piece of paper.
2. Next, ask your child to try to build 3-dimensional shapes using small marshmallows and pretzel sticks. By pushing marshmallows onto the ends of pretzel sticks, you can create structures.
3. When they have made a variety of shapes, have them find items around the house that are the same shapes as they created.
4. Write those household items on their piece of paper, beside the corresponding shape name.

Variations:

- Alternate materials that can be used to create 3-dimensional shapes might include:
  - Playdough
  - Toothpicks and marshmallows
  - Rice Krispie treats
  - Straws and tape
  - Pipe cleaners
  - Popsicle sticks and playdough or marshmallows

## Measuring Spaghetti Noodles

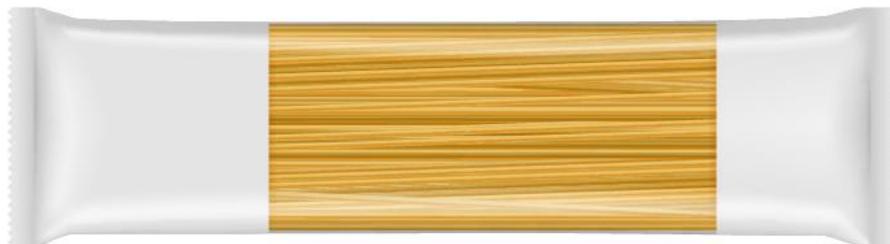
Objective: To practice measuring and measurement conversions.

Materials:

- Package of longer dry pasta such as spaghetti or fettuccini
- Ruler
- Paper
- Pencil or pen

Instructions:

1. Before you open the package of pasta, have your child estimate how many noodles are in the package.
2. Next, have them count the number of noodles in the package, or a select group of noodles.
3. Create division questions based on the number of noodles in the package. For example, if we have 6 people in our family and there are 60 noodles in the package, how many noodles can each person have?
4. Have your child measure a pasta noodle with a ruler and record the findings on a piece of paper. You can break the pasta noodles into different lengths so they will measure a variety of different lengths.
5. Have your child measure the length of a table in your kitchen. Then ask them how many full-length spaghetti noodles they need to run the length of the table based on their previous measurements.
6. Have your child create 2-dimensional shapes using the dry pasta noodles.



## Measuring Colourful Water

Objective: To practice recognizing, reading and adjusting liquid measurements.

Materials:

- Water
- Food colouring
- 4-6 glasses
- Liquid measuring cup
- Paper
- Pen or pencil

Instructions:

1. Put varying amounts of water into 4-6 glasses.
2. Using food colouring, dye the water different colours.
3. Have your child create a list or chart displaying the different colours using words, pictures, or both.
4. Ask your child to estimate how much water is in each cup. They can write their estimation beside the corresponding colour on their chart.
5. Pour the coloured water into a liquid measuring cup one glass at a time and record the actual measurement.
6. Discuss with your child the difference between their estimation and the actual measurement.

Variation:

- You can provide your child a list of measurements and ask them to fill a measuring cup with the various measurements.



# Literacy and Numeracy Activities in the Car

## Literacy in the Car

1. **Storytelling:** One person starts telling a story, and then passes it to the next person to continue. This can be a fun way to keep everyone engaged and entertained, and it can also help improve listening and speaking skills.
2. **Alphabet game:** Start with the letter A and take turns finding things outside or inside the car that start with each letter of the alphabet. For example, for A, you might say, “apple” or “air freshener.”
3. **Rhyme time:** One person says a word and the next person has to say a word that rhymes with it. This is a great way to work on phonemic awareness and language development.
4. **License plate game:** Look for license plates from different states or provinces and see how many you can find. This can be a fun way to work on reading and geography skills.
5. **Word association:** One person says a word and the next person has to say a word that is associated with it. For example, if the first person says “dog,” the second person might say, “bark.”
6. **Sing-alongs:** Singing together is a great way to bond and improve language skills. Choose some favourite songs that everyone can sing along to.
7. **Read-alouds:** If you have a book or magazine with you, take turns reading out loud. This can help improve reading fluency and comprehension.
8. **License Plate Boggle:** Write the letters down from 2 or 3 cars’ license plates. Try to make as many words as you can using those letters.
9. **Scavenger Hunt:** Make a list of things you will watch for in the car. When you see the object, cross it off your list, or draw a picture of it.
10. **Car BINGO:** Create a BINGO card with objects you might see during your time in the car. As you see them, mark them on your BINGO card. The first person to get a line, or full card yells, “BINGO” and wins.
11. **Homemade Scattergories:** Choose a category and a letter. Set a timer and try to think of as many words from that category that start with your chosen letter.

Remember to prioritize safety and keep your eyes on the road while driving. Have fun!

## Numeracy in the Car

1. **Counting:** Have your children count the number of red or blue cars they see on the road, or the number of stop signs or traffic lights you encounter. You can also count the number of exits you pass on the highway.
2. **Estimation:** Ask your children to estimate how many kilometres it will take to get to your destination, or how many minutes it will take to get there. You can also ask them to estimate how much gas you will need to fill up the car.
3. **Math games:** Play a game like “I Spy” using math terms such as “I spy with my little eye, something that is a rectangle.” Your child can guess what object you are looking at, and then you can switch roles.
4. **Mental math:** Ask your children to solve math problems in their heads, such as addition or subtraction. You can also give them multiplication or division problems to solve.
5. **Time:** Ask your children to calculate how long it will take to get to your destination based on your current speed and the distance left to travel.
6. **Budgeting:** Give your children a hypothetical budget and have them calculate how much they can spend on snacks or souvenirs during the trip. You can also give them a shopping list and ask them to calculate the total cost of the items.



7. **Road signs:** Point out different road signs and ask your children to explain what they mean. You can also quiz them on what the different shapes and colours of the signs represent.
8. **License Plate Math:** Write the numbers down from the license plates of two cars you pass. Next, add the numbers together. You can repeat this activity numerous times. You can write the equation down or use mental math to solve the problems.
9. **Play Guess Who with numbers:** Choose a number between 1 and 50. Have your child ask questions to try to figure out which number you are thinking of. For example, they might ask, are you a multiple of 5? They might also ask, are you greater than 20?
10. **Number Find:** Watch for numbers on signs and license plates. Each person must spot the numbers 1-10 or higher, in order. The first person to spot the numbers in order wins.
11. **What am I counting:** Choose one person to go first. That person chooses an object to count but does not tell everyone else. For example, white cars. When that person spots the first white car, they say “one” aloud. When they spot another white car, they say “two” aloud. They continue to count aloud each time they see the object they have secretly chosen. Everyone else in the vehicle tries to guess what object they are counting.
12. **Add 2:** One person chooses a number to start at. Each person says the next number if you add 2 to the previous number. For example, if the first person chooses 22, the next person says 24, the next person says 26, and so on. Alternatively, you can play add 3, or add 5. You can choose any number you wish to add.
13. **How Many:** Discuss how long it will take to get to your destination or first stop. Choose an object you want to count as you drive. Estimate or guess how many of that object you might pass before you arrive at your destination or first stop. For example, if you are driving on a county road, how many horses do you think you will pass during your drive? Then count the horses you see. Compare your guess to the actual number.

Remember to make the activities fun and engaging for your children, and to adjust the level of difficulty to suit their age and abilities.

# Web Resources

## Description

## Website

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Literacy program information, statistics, and resources.

<https://abclifeliteracy.ca/programs-initiatives/>

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Financial literacy activities, games, and quizzes.

<https://abcmoneymatters.ca/>

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Explore various history topics through videos, games and quizzes.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/forkids/index.shtml>

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Read reviews and recommendations for media such as television series and movies before your kids watch them.

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/>

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Math games for practicing numeracy skills.

<https://www.coolmathgames.com/>

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Child friendly current news articles.

<https://www.dogonews.com/>

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Family and financial literacy skills activities.

<https://familyliteracyfirst.ca/>

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Free books for kids to read online.

<https://www.freereadingprogram.com/>

Worksheets and games for ages preschool to grade 8.

<https://www.funfonix.com/>

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Free online academic classes for all ages.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

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Health information for parents, children, and teens.

<https://kidshealth.org/>

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National Geographic stories, pictures, games, and quizzes.

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/games>

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Online literacy and numeracy resources to use for learning at home.

<https://www.literacysshedplus.com/en-us/browse/free-resources>

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Educational interactive videos for grade school kids.

<https://www.makemegenius.com/>

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Interactive galleries, stories and activities about NASA and science.

<https://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub/index.html>

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Videos, games, and activities to encourage everyday learning.

<https://pbskids.org/>

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Ontario health information and resources.

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/>

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Free curriculum and tools for learning at home.

<https://www.readworks.org/>

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Games, videos and activities that encourage literacy learning.

<https://www.sesamestreet.org/>

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Literacy activities and games using Dr. Seuss books.

<https://www.seussville.com/>

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Articles about sports news for kids to read.

<https://www.sikids.com/>

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News articles about science.

<https://www.snexplores.org/>

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Free online short stories for kids.

<https://sooperbooks.com/>

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Literacy and numeracy games for kids ages preschool to grade 5.

<https://www.starfall.com/h/>

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Choose a story to have read to you.

<https://storylineonline.net/>

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Videos and activities to encourage everyday learning.

<https://www.tvokids.com/school-age>

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