

EARLY LEARNING AT HOME

Getting Ready for Kindergarten: Math

Early math skills can include counting, number recognition, sorting, patterning, shape knowledge, one to one correspondence, and math vocabulary.



Craft Description:

Ice cream cones and ice cream scoops make for a fun counting activity. In this craft, there are two sheets, one page with 10 ice cream cones and one page with 10 ice cream scoops. You will need one page of the ice cream cones and 2 pages of the ice cream scoops. Color the scoops in a variety of colors and cut out the pieces to use in a variety of early math activities. Some guidelines for kindergarten readiness suggest being able to count out loud up to 20, identify numbers 1-10, count 10-20 objects by pointing to each object, and connecting numbers 1-10 with a matching set of objects. If your child already knows numbers 1-10, then take extra copies of the scoops and cones and practice with numbers 11-20. This is also an opportunity to let your preschooler practice using scissors. Knowing how to use scissors properly is a helpful skill to have as your child enters kindergarten.

Counting

For each cone, write the number 1-10 with each cone having a different number. Count out the number of scoops for each cone depending on the number written on the cone. If the number is 7, then count out and stack 7 scoops on the cone. You can add a literacy piece to this activity by making up stories about the flavors of the cone or asking questions such as, "what would happen if you had 7 scoops of ice cream on a hot day?"

Number Recognition

You can practice counting and number recognition with the cones. Practice counting to 10 by laying out the cones in numerical order. As you count, point to the number written on each cone. Mix up the cones and ask your child to lay the cones out in numerical order. You can help your child by counting with them. Start with counting to 5 and then increase the number as your child learns them.

Math Vocabulary

Choose a cone with 7 scoops and a cone with 3 scoops. Talk about the ice cream scoops and introduce some math vocabulary –which cone has the most scoops? Which cone has the least scoops?

Try doing this with 3 different numbered cones and talk about them using words like big, bigger, and biggest or small, smaller, and smallest.