

Teaching and Learning

Family Roadmap to Math Success in Louisiana

Rising Kindergarten Overview

In Pre-Kindergarten, students start building number sense by using one-to-one correspondence to count groups of objects from zero to ten. They also learn to compare quantities, identifying which group has more or fewer objects. In addition, they begin to describe and compare objects based on attributes such as length, width, and height.

By the end of the grade, your child will be able to:

- Recognize and name numerals 0–10.
- Use a numeral from 0 to 10 to show how many objects are in a group.
- Use objects to add and subtract with numbers up to 5. For example, take one ball away from four balls to find out that $4 - 1 = 3$.
- Sort everyday objects based on their characteristics. For example, put large toys in one basket and small toys in another basket.
- Use language to describe objects' positions and relationships. For example, tell what is beside a desk or above the door.
- Create three-dimensional shapes using Popsicle sticks, pattern blocks, and other objects.
- Recognize and name squares, circles, triangles, and rectangles.
- Recognize coins and paper money (bills). Understand that the coins and bills have value.

How can families help at home?

- Count things around the house, and ask questions such as, "How many red blocks are there?"
- Use everyday items like toys and snacks to practice counting, and ask your child to participate by asking them questions such as, "Can you show me five cookies?" or "Let's count out three blocks together."
- Compare small groups of objects and ask questions such as, "Which color blocks have more? Who has more pennies?"
- Count while shopping. Let your child count fruits or vegetables as they are placed in a bag or basket.
- Sort and count coins.
- Find shapes around the house and discuss their attributes, such as "The cookie is a circle- it can roll."
- Read counting books to practice counting and adding one more.

Building reasoning and problem-solving through word problems

Working through word problems using objects, toys, household items, or drawings helps students develop both their mathematical vocabulary and their reasoning abilities. Word problems support critical thinking, improve problem-solving strategies, and help students apply math concepts to real-world situations. Here are example word problems that Pre-Kindergarten students might work on:

- Lilly has 3 apples. Her friend gives her 2 more. How many apples does she have now?
- Easton sees 4 ants. Then, 2 ants walk away. How many ants are still there?
- Callie has 3 blue balls and 2 red balls. How many balls does she have altogether?
- Jane sees a rectangular door and a round window. How are these shapes the same? How are they different?
- Sawyer has 2 markers. His teacher gives him 1 more. How many markers does he have now?
- Andrew has 4 cookies. He eats 1 cookie. How many cookies are left?
- Sam has 3 blocks, and Jill has 5 blocks. Who has more blocks? Who has fewer blocks?

Family Engagement Tips

- Talk positively about math and encourage your child to maintain a growth mindset.
- Encourage your child to share/show you a different way to solve a math problem than you are familiar with and explain the reasoning for their approach.
- Celebrate mistakes as learning opportunities. Remind your child that making mistakes is part of learning and praise their efforts.
- Stay in touch with your child's teacher to learn what your child is learning and how to support it at home.
- Create a learning space for your child with supplies such as paper, pencils, rulers, calculators, and age-appropriate math manipulatives.

How does Pre-Kindergarten math build on early childhood math?

Early childhood lays the foundation for math by giving children plenty of opportunities to explore, play, and use simple math in everyday moments. Pre-Kindergarten takes the curiosity and skills children already have and helps shape them into early math learning. For example, toddlers love to say numbers, but in Pre-Kindergarten, children learn to count objects to figure out "how many." Toddlers often sort toys without thinking about it, and in Pre-Kindergarten, they begin sorting on purpose, by color, size, and shape. Pre-Kindergarten supports the math children naturally use every day and helps them make better sense of it, setting them up for success as they move into Kindergarten.

Math Conversations

Communicate with your child about math using open-ended questions:

- How did you solve that problem?
- How do you know that your answer makes sense?
- How did you figure that out?
- What do you notice about these numbers/shapes?
- Which group has more? How do you know?

Online Resources

- [Family Math Resources](#)
- [Family Literacy Resources](#)
- [School System Parent and Family Engagement Resources](#)