



Dear Family,

Our class is starting our first unit in math about position words and beginning number sense. This unit serves as an introduction to some of the mathematical routines students will do all year.

These routines include:

- Counting to take attendance
- Using the calendar to count days and to keep track of time and events
- Counting and recording the number of objects in a jar
- Creating a set with the same number
- Counting and analyzing data about our class, such as how many students do (and do not) have a younger sibling

In addition, students are introduced to the manipulatives they will use in mathematics this year and to routines for using and taking care of such materials.

Throughout this unit, students will be working toward these goals.

Becoming familiar with the expectations for learning

- Exploring some of the materials they will be using to model mathematical situations and solve mathematical problems
- Talking about mathematical problems and solutions
- Working with peers as they share ideas and materials
- Relying on their own thinking and learning from the thinking of others

In our math class, students engage in math problems and activities and discuss the underlying concepts. They are asked to share their reasoning and solutions. It is important that children solve math problems accurately in ways that make sense to them. At home, encourage your child to explain his or her math thinking to you.

The activities suggested below are related to the mathematics we are currently studying in school. Doing them together can enrich your child's mathematical learning.

Calendar Explore the calendar as a tool for keeping track of time and events by showing your child how you use it. When you write in an appointment or a family event, or when you use it to find how many more days until a special event, talk with your child about what you're doing.

Describing Encourage your child to use words to describe where a picture or object is in relation to another. (e.g., next to, near, under, over, below, above)

Counting Take advantage of any opportunities to count with your child. Children learn to count accurately by having many opportunities to see and hear other people count and to count on their own.

You can model this by:

- Counting out napkins or plates for the table
- Counting the number of stairs as you go up or down
- Counting the number of a particular object (e.g., dogs, signs, or cars) as you walk down the street
- Counting the number of items in a collection of plastic animals, cars, or other small toys

Math and Literature You can find the following books in your local library and read them together.

Reid, Margarete S. The Button Box

Lionni, Leo. A Busy Year

Roth, Susan L. My Love for You All Year Round

Hoban, Tana. Count and See

Walsh, Ellen Stoll. Mouse Count

Wormell, Christopher. Teeth, Tails & Tentacles: An Animal Counting Book

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Team