



Mathematics Family Letter, Unit: 2

Dear Family,

Our class is starting a new unit in math about *Counting, Comparing, and Measurement*. The focus of this unit is on counting and comparing quantities and beginning to explore measurement by directly comparing objects by length, capacity, height, and weight.

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

- Counting a set of objects up to ten
- Comparing two or more sets of objects (1-10) and identify which set is more than, less than, or equal
- Comparing three rods according to length and understands shorter and longer
- Compares three containers according to capacity and understands more than and less than
- Comparing three objects according to height and understands taller and shorter
- Comparing three objects with varying weights and understand heavier and lighter

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.

The activities suggested below are related to the above mentioned skills. Doing them together can enrich your child's math learning.

Counting

You can help your child to count fluently by finding many opportunities to ask your child to count in different ways. For example, sometimes you can sing a counting song and count aloud together. At other times, ask your child to count a small set of objects ("How many library books do we have?") or the number of pictures on a page. A slightly different kind of question is "Can you make a group of 6 apples?" or "Can you count out 7 pennies?" You can also ask your child to solve a problem; for example, "If everyone needs a fork, how many forks do we need to set the table?"

Grab and Count

Gather a set of objects, such as toy cars, blocks, or foam peanuts. Ask your child to grab a handful and count how many he or she grabbed. Then, ask your child to predict whether you will be able to grab more or less. Try it and find out. Your child can also grab two handfuls and see which holds more, the left hand or the right.

Which Is Longer?

Another major focus of this unit is comparing objects to see which is longer, taller, heavier and holds more. Find opportunities to ask your child to compare different objects; for example, "What do you think the longest part of this cereal box is? Do you think the cereal box is heavier than the milk jug? How could we find out?"

Playing Compare

We have been playing a card game called *Compare* that is similar to the familiar card game, War. Each player gets half of a deck of cards and puts them in a pile facedown. Both players turn over their top card, and the person with the larger number says, "Me." Ask your child to explain how he or she knows which number is greater. The game is over when all of the cards have been turned over.

Sincerely,
The Kindergarten Team