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Children participate in activities that promote counting and number sense. According to NAEYC (The National Association for the Education of Young Children) children who have plenty of counting experience in preschool develop number competence (the ability to count, make number comparisons, and completing calculations). Number competence is the foundation for mathematics skills.

*Erin*

Mauricio puts one bean inside each square and then counts it. Ruben rolls a die with dots showing different ways to make four and five . He counts the dots, then glues that many pieces of paper on his picture.



Children practice putting items on a number line and counting the items. They are learning how to organize items to count in order without skipping an item or counting it twice, and to associate number sets with number symbols.

Children have a tea party with edamame beans. They are learning that many items can be counted, and that we use math and counting to answer questions "How many do you have?" "Who has more/less?" and solve problems "How can we share the edamame beans so that everyone has an equal amount?"



Children explore shape and symmetry. Parker and Nia put geometric blocks in a frame. They are learning how shapes fit together in different configurations. Rosie puts a mirror in the middle of her shape puzzle. She discovered it looked the same (was symmetrical) when divided in half vertically, but looked different (asymmetrical) when the mirror was placed in the middle horizontally.



Children need to experience real-world applications of mathematics so they see they can use math to make sense of our world. In this picture, children are interpreting information on a graph which shows what flavors of food children prefer. They see that counting helps them to answer questions.



Math and science are intertwined. Madeline, Labrraylyn, and Stella compare the weights of different-sized bears. Labrraylyn counts how many bears are on the side that is heavier. We can then use math to hypothesize about how to make the sides of the scale equal (add more bears to one side, and take bears away from the other side).



Playing board games with your child at home is a great way to develop numeracy skills. Playing board games also develops your child's ability to pay attention. It also helps children develop higher-level cognitive skills such as coming up with strategies in order to win, and thinking about what their opponents or team-mates are thinking. These metacognitive strategies help children succeed in school. Click [HERE](#) for game ideas.

