



Numeracy Overview

What is numeracy?

Numeracy, in the Alberta context, refers to confidently engaging with numbers, measurements, and spatial information such as the physical location and movements of objects and ourselves, to make relevant and informed decisions.

Tip Sheets for Parents

We've developed tip sheets that suggest various activities you can do to help strengthen your elementary child's numeracy skills.

We've built tip sheets for each mathematical process that strengthens numeracy:

- Communication
- Connections
- Mental Math and Estimation
- Problem Solving
- Reasoning
- Technology
- Visualization

Two general tip sheets are also included:

- Games and Activities
- Summer Activities

How can I help my child?

- Talk to your child's teacher about how numeracy is developed and practiced in the classroom.
- Explore these resources to find out more:
 - [Alberta Education: What is numeracy?](#)
 - [Alberta Education: Numeracy Progressions](#)

Understanding Numeracy

Frequently Asked Questions

1. HOW IS NUMERACY A PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE?

Numeracy is all around us. It is a way for us to explore and understand our world. We use numeracy skills when we gather information, make estimations and plan activities.

2. HOW DOES NUMERACY DIFFER FROM MATHEMATICS?

Numeracy is a broad, flexible skill. It combines relevant mathematical knowledge with additional understanding of information needed to solve problems in everyday life.

3. HOW CAN PARENTS SUPPORT NUMERACY LEARNING AT HOME?

Families can talk about numeracy concepts in everyday conversation. Encourage each other to help plan times, compare and sort objects, play number games and brain-teasers, draw, create and build.

4. WHAT CAN I USE AT HOME TO SUPPORT NUMERACY?

Items around the house can be used for sorting, counting, making patterns and making comparisons. Being aware of numeracy skills can lead to talk and activities that help children make connections.

5. HOW IS NUMERACY LEARNED IN SCHOOLS?

Numeracy stretches across all subject areas. For example, students use numeracy skills to estimate and measure in science. They look for patterns in language arts. They record historical and current events on timelines in social studies. Students count beats and use timing when singing and playing instruments in music.

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Last updated: March 2020