

Numeracy Tips

Numeracy is everywhere. When we use math skills in everyday situations, we are using numeracy. We use understanding of number, patterns, shape, and data to make informed decisions.

Mental Math and Estimation

Why is mental math and estimation important in numeracy?

- Estimating helps us to find solutions for problems in everyday life.
- We estimate amounts, time, space, shape, direction and location. We also estimate relationships between objects.

How can I help my child?

Together with your child, try these activities:

- Play guessing games, such as: Which takes more time? How many of these will fit into that? Which do you think is heavier, lighter, longer, shorter, etc.? Explain your thinking.
- Collect leaves, stones and pinecones. Before counting, estimate how many you have. Estimate how many stones would cover a leaf.
- Go to the grocery store. Choose a few items and estimate how much it would cost to buy all of them.
- Estimate how fast you can run, hop or wheel to a spot and back and then time it.
- Place small items, like buttons or beads, in a jar or cup and estimate how many there are.
- Find containers of different shapes and estimate which one holds more buttons or beads.
- Imagine how you could arrange chairs around a table. Will they all fit?
- Estimate how tall a person is and then measure their actual height.
- Estimate how many scoops or shovelfuls of sand or dirt could fill a bucket. Try it out.
- Talk to your child's teacher about how numeracy is developed and practiced in the classroom.

Find out more:

- Consider *Activities for Every Day* from Math For Families: Helping your child with math at home. Achieve BC: http://www.sd47.bc.ca/Programs/earlylearning/Documents/math_for_families.pdf
- Watch videos to find out more:
 - Alberta Education Numeracy Video <https://education.alberta.ca/literacy-and-numeracy/numeracy/everyone/numeracy-video/>
 - Alberta Education: 7 Processes-Mental Mathematics and Estimation <https://education.alberta.ca/mathematics-7-9/program-supports/everyone/videos/>
- Read about helping to develop mental math and estimation skills: The 7 Mathematical Processes: Mental Math and Estimation https://education.alberta.ca/media/563587/mental_math.pdf

Use our app EPSB Together

Download [EPSB Together](#), a free app that suggests activities you can do with your child to support your child's learning outside of the classroom. You can download the app on Google Play and the Apple App Store.