

Learning Through Play

Maths in a Bag



Objectives:

- To understand what a Maths Bag is and how to make one?
- To see how to use a Maths Bag with a group of children?
 - Calendar - how to make and use it?
 - Weather Chart - how to make and use it?

What is a Maths bag?

- A Maths Bag is a collection of objects for the children to use in their teacher-led activity to solve maths problems.
- Maths Bags have objects for measuring length, sorting by colour and shape and for counting.



Why should teachers use a Maths Bag?

- Maths Bag helps children develop a positive attitude to maths.
- When they play with maths and maths games, they will develop confidence and enjoyment for doing maths.
- Young children learn best through manipulating real objects. Developmentally, they are not ready to just think about these concepts without objects to move.

How to make Maths Bag?

Teacher can include a range of objects for children to manipulate so they can count, sort and measure to develop their knowledge of numbers and simple maths calculations. These materials can come from nature, be household objects or from the local market.

- A handful of seeds pods 2 two different colours or shape
- 2 dice, made from wood or paper
- Small stones – different shapes and sizes
- 10 paper clips – different colours
- 10 straws – different colours
- 10 water bottle caps
- 10 ice cream sticks or dried small sticks
- 10 clothes pegs
- 6 blocks painted different colours
- Number cards 1 to 5.
- Number cards 6 to 10 can be added later in the year when children understand the 1 to 5 concepts
- A piece of material or paper to be the background to place objects on while they are playing the maths game

Learning Skills Set

Social Emotional Skills	Emergent Literacy Skills	Emergent Numeracy Skills	Physical Skills
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Positive Sense of Self 2. Effective Communication 3. Emotional Management 4. Critical Thinking 5. Relationship Building 6. Social Responsibility 7. Self Protection 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expressive Vocabulary 2. Listening Comprehension 3. Print Awareness 4. Story Comprehension 5. Letter Identification 6. Sound Discrimination 7. Emergent Writing 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Classification and Sorting 2. Pattern Recognition 3. Number Identification 4. One to One Correspondence 5. Simple Operations 6. Shape Identification 7. Measurement & Comparison 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sensory Motor 2. Gross Motor 3. Fine Motor

How to do a Calendar activity?

1. Daily activity includes the calendar and weather activity.
2. The calendar is next to the teacher in the circle or on a board so all the children can see it.
3. The teacher talks about the day, date and month
4. Children can point to the day, the date or the month or mark the chart with an arrow to show the day.
5. Children look at the weather chart and decide what the weather is like today.
6. The child of the day or the teacher can move the pointer to the picture of the daily weather.



Each child should have their own Maths Bag or one bag between two children.

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Adapting Maths Circle for Children with Diverse Needs

- For children with diverse needs whose home language is different from the language of instruction, the teacher can write both words on the calendar. If the home language does not have a written form, the teacher can write an approximation of the word in the language of instruction. Schedules or daily timetables with picture cues can be used to show the child what day it is or use some leaves to show windy weather.
- All objects in the Maths Bag should be as big as an adult's thumbnail to ensure they will not choke a child if they put the object in their mouth.

Reflection questions for teachers

- What strategies do you use to help children have fun with maths?
- Include numeracy activities maths in the children?
- What did you learn from the video that you will add to your daily practice to integrate calendar activity into daily routine for children from ethnic communities or at a different stage of development?