

Activities that help your child learn (age 4 to 5)

MPC-39

At this age, children are positively bursting with energy. They run, jump, and gallop, are loud and boastful, and are always ready for anything. They continue to master grammar and add to their vocabulary, they continue to learn important pre-math skills and may be learning to read and write a few words.

- Let your child tell you a story and write it down for him.
- Make a book about your child. Take several pieces of paper and punch a hole in the corner. String them together with yarn, pipe cleaners, ribbon, or string. Let your child draw or paste pictures on the pages and tell you what to write. Use one page for your child's pets, her family, her friends, and so on.
- Get your child a library card and teach him how to use it.
- Buy your child a children's dictionary with pictures if possible.
- Young children are naturally beginning to explore pre-math skills. Help your child by talking about what numbers are used in his daily life. Include your child in daily math activities like measuring when cooking dinner.
- Talk about numbers that are most important to your child like her height or weight, how old she is, her address and so on.
- Your child is trying lots of new skills and may fail the first time he tries. Praise your child, he needs lots of pats on the back, hugs, and reassurance.
- Play games that require simple scoring or games like dominoes where your child has to match up numbers.
- Teach your child to share. Bake cookies for a new neighbor or someone who isn't feeling well; feed bread to the birds or ducks, or save some of their allowance for church each week.
- Teach your child good manners. If you treat your child respectfully and say please and thank you so will he.
- Teach your child how to resolve problems. First, listen to your child - don't offer any advice yet. In most cases, children will solve the problem just by talking it through - especially if it is a problem with another child. If this doesn't help, then offer help.
- Cut sandwiches into different shapes like two rectangles or two triangles. Put them back together again to show your child how two rectangles or triangles can form one square.
- By this age, your child's vocabulary has grown to almost 1,500 words. Challenge your child's vocabulary by having an exaggeration contest.
- Don't worry about teaching your child to read. Just have lots of reading materials around and continue reading to him.
- Nurture your child's curiosity and imagination by playing pretend games with her. Dressing up in adult's clothing is especially fun.
- When your child plays on a jungle gym, use words like on top of, way up or way down, etc.