

Egg Carton Math



You will need an empty egg carton (preferably a plastic one so that it can be washed with soap and water before your child handles it) for this activity. Use pieces of self-stick mailing labels or small pieces of paper and tape to label each section of the carton from left to right with a number from 0-10. (Feel free to add 11 if you think your child is up for the challenge.) Have your child count out the correct # of any small objects you have in your home that will fit in the egg carton space. You can use raisins, Cheerios or other small cereal pieces, M & M's, plastic beads, coins, etc.

1. Have your child point to each number in order and say it aloud. Try pointing to each number out of order to see which numbers your child is able to recognize. Reinforce any numbers they are not able to recognize.
2. Have your child count objects one at a time as he or she places them in each section of the carton to make sure the amount matches the number in each section.
3. Once your child is able to successfully complete steps 1 & 2, change the amounts so that some of them are not accurate and have your child count each section to try to find the sections that are not correct. Have your child add or subtract pieces from that section until the amount matches the numeral correctly. Ask, "How many more should we add?" or "How many should we take away?" for quantities up to 5.

4. If available at home, label plastic (Easter) eggs with numerals 0-10 (or up to 11). Have your child find the egg that matches each section and move the objects from the carton to the egg and then place the egg in the correct spot in the carton so that the number on the egg matches the number in the carton.
5. Once your child is able to complete step 4, mix up the order of the eggs and have your child put them all back in the correct spots.

*Depending on your child's attention span, you may choose to do only the first 3 steps in one session and save steps 4 and 5 for another time.

**To strengthen fine motor skills, have your child try counting out and moving the objects using tweezers or salad tongs.