

Seed to Sprout

P R E S C H O O L

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

THIS MONTH

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season! The new year will bring fun new adventures at preschool. Our storytelling focus this month will be Jack and the Beanstalk. There are no special events or days off this month.



REMINDER

We're in the thick of winter weather--please remember to send your child with appropriate outdoor clothing!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January 5th
Drew



AFFIRMATIONS



I Am Kind

I Am Loved



RECYLABLES

Please collect the following recyclable items this month:

Corrugated Cardboard
(sheets or boxes)



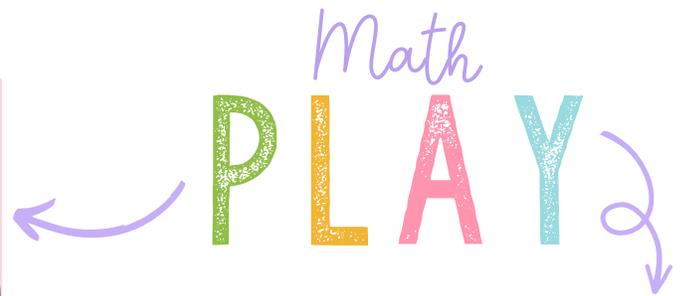
WHY PLAY??

EXPLORING MATH ALL AROUND YOU

Math play in early childhood education refers to activities that incorporate mathematical concepts in a playful, engaging, and interactive way. This can include counting games, sorting and patterning activities, or explorations of shapes and size.

REINFORCES NUMBER SENSE

Counting toys, sorting objects and comparing sizes during play helps children grasp important concepts like one-to-one correspondence, more/less, and bigger/smaller.



DEVELOPS SPATIAL SKILLS

Activities like putting together puzzles, building with blocks, and playing with shape sorters trains the mind in visualizing and manipulating different objects and shapes.

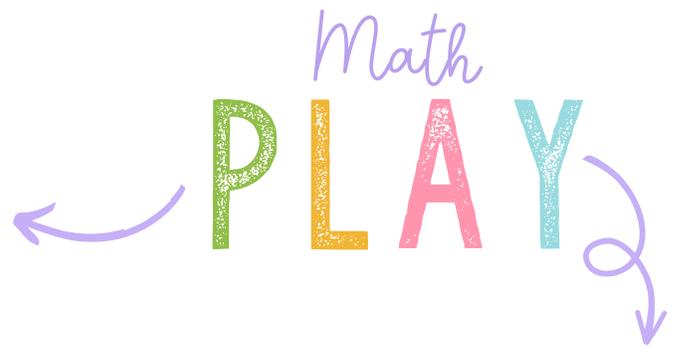
SPARKS PROBLEM-SOLVING

Figuring out how many beads to string or how items can be grouped requires trial and error, experimentation, and persistence - abilities essential for future math competence.



BOOSTS SELF-CONFIDENCE

When math emerges organically from things children already enjoy, they begin to see themselves as "math people" at a young age.



MAKES LEARNING FUN

Play provides an inherently joyful and engaging way to introduce math concepts before formal instruction begins.

For most young children, math seems like a subject that happens mostly at school. But research shows that when math is woven into everyday play at home, it can powerfully nurture foundational skills and positive attitudes.

"LEARNING MATH IS MORE LIKE TAKING A MEANDERING NATURE WALK, THAN LIKE CLIMBING A LADDER OF ONE-TOPIC-AFTER-ANOTHER. KIDS NEED TO WANDER AROUND THE CONCEPTS, NOTICE THINGS, WONDER ABOUT THEM, AND ENJOY THE JOURNEY."

DENISE GASKINS

References: Aunio, P., Tapola, A., Mononen, R., & Niemivirta, M. (2016). Early mathematics skill development, low performance, and parental support in the Finnish context.

Clements, D. H., & Sarama, J. (2011). Early childhood mathematics intervention. *Science*, 333(6045), 968-970.

