Finding Math Scavenger Hunts

Finding Math is scavenger hunt that helps families explore math concepts in everyday settings. The hunts are designed to be flexible and can be done in almost any environment, from a library or community center, to a family's home. The clues were developed in collaboration with community partners by the Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences.

The Details:

- This packet contains six sets of scavenger hunts. For each hunt there are two sets of prompts, "take one" and "take two. " "Take one" was designed with younger children in mind and includes tips for caregiver. Printable activity signs for each hunt are also included.

- The scavenger hunts are all about using math during everyday activities, and helping families see that math is more than just addition and subtraction – it is a tool that can be used to describe the world anytime and anywhere!

- The clues are meant to help families interact with math in a playful way, so there's no wrong way to do it! The more families understand all the way that math can be part of everyday activities, the better.

- For more play-based activities to boost math skills, including activities to do at home, follow @finding_math on Instagram and visit www.modules.ilabs.uw.edu/finding-math

Scavenger Hunt

Lights Up!

To get started,
grab a cue sheet.

Follow the cues and prompts to explore the many ways you can find and use math all around you!

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Lights Up!

Finding Math

Take One!

Mirror Mirror

Find your reflection. Can you stick out your tongue? Make a silly face? Wave to yourself?

Record your answer here.

Playing with reflections helps children develop body sense, and it also helps them learn cause-and-effect! Cause-and-effect is an important aspect of early math skills.

Shape Shift

Play with your shadow! What happens when you move your body? What shapes can you make?

Like mirrors, shadow play gives children a way to explore big body movements and develop body sense. Try moving together first, then try matching each other's movements!

Flip the Switch

Lights usually have a button or a switch that turns them on and off. Can you find one? Practice turning the light on and off!

Buttons and switches provide great opportunities for children to learn cause-and-effect! Talk them through it. Say, "What happens when we flip this switch? Oh! The light turned on!"

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Lights Up!

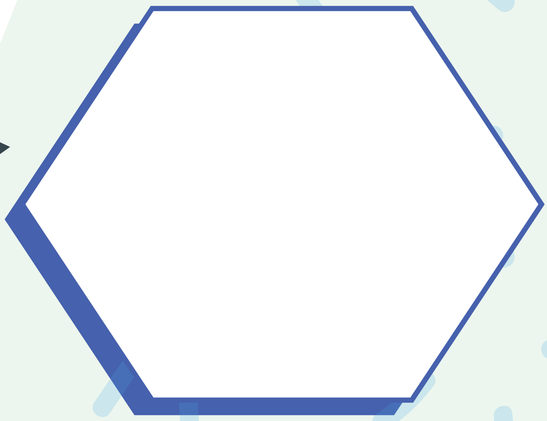
Finding Math

Take Two!

Measure Up

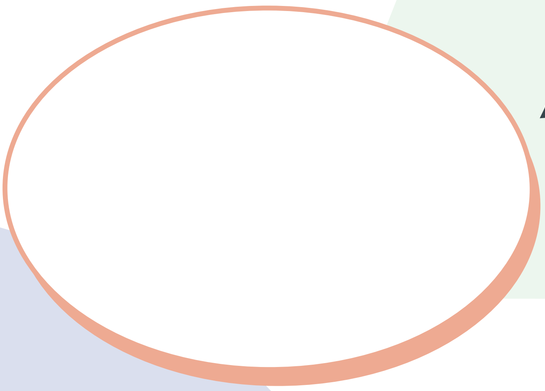
In each room, find your shadow and measure it. How do you measure without using a ruler?

Record your answer here.



Shape Shift

Find a place to play with your shadow. What shapes can you make? Can your friend match your shapes?

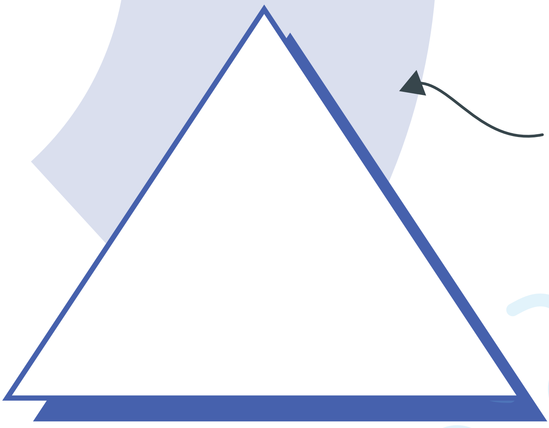


The Long and Short of it

Investigate! Where do you see the longest shadows? The shortest?

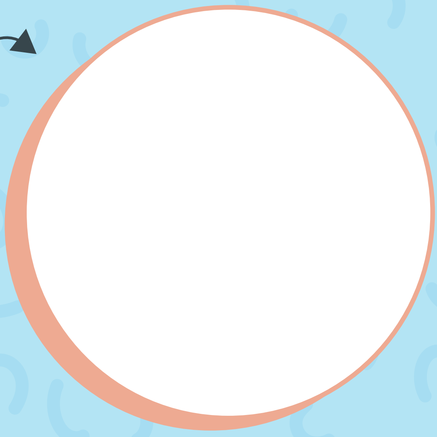
Plant Life

Plants need sunlight to grow. If you were a plant in this space, where would you live?



Mirror Mirror

Can you find your reflection? What kinds of surfaces make the best reflections?



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Scavenger Hunt

It Takes All Kinds

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It Takes All Kinds

Finding Math

Take One!

Say-So

Find 3 different numbers. Can you say their names?

Record your answer here.

Number recognition is an important early math skill! Point out different numbers to your child and have them repeat the numbers back to you. Even if the numbers are "big," it's good practice!

Stack Up

Find 3 things you can stack. Can you build a tower?

Building and stacking are perfect activities for building large and small motor skills. They are also early introductions to engineering concepts! For a challenge, see how many items you can stack on top of each other.

Rollin' in the Deep

Find 3 things that roll. Can you roll them to a friend?

Make predictions and experiment! What sort of items roll? Test them out! Practicing with a friend is a great way to build social skills while having fun with early STEM.

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It Takes All Kinds

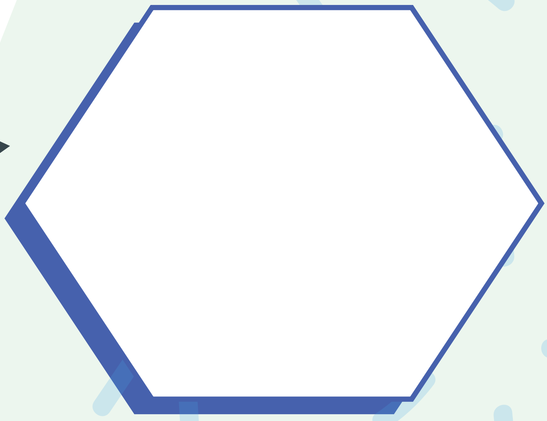
Finding Math

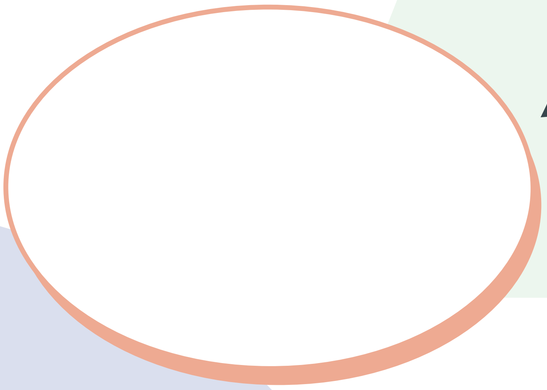
Take Two!

To the Letter

Find 3 things that start with the letter "A."

Record your answer here.



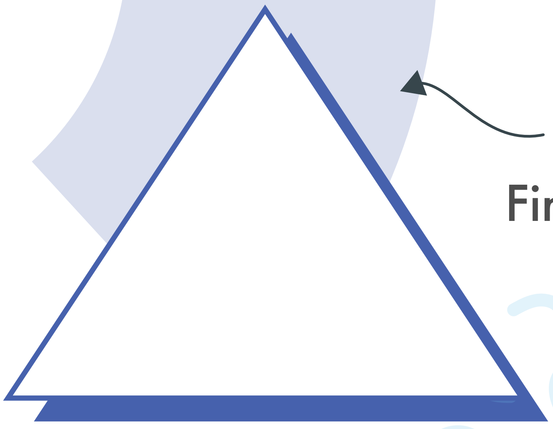


Rollin' in the Deep

Find 3 things that roll.

By Design

Find 3 different patterns.

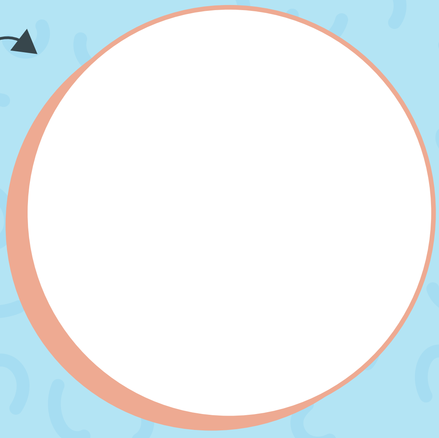


Work it!

Find 3 things that do a job.

Gather Round

Find 3 collections. What do you collect?



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Scavenger Hunt

Time After Time

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Time After Time

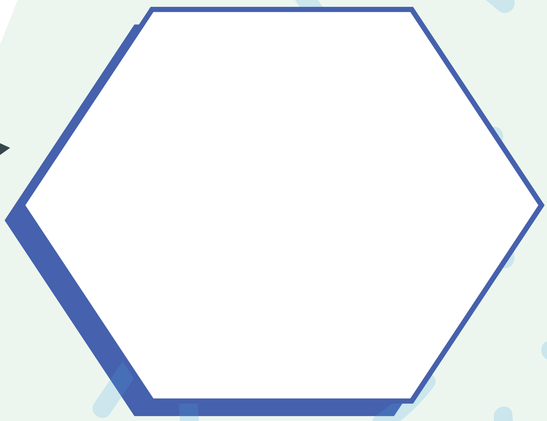
Finding Math

Take Two!

Clock It

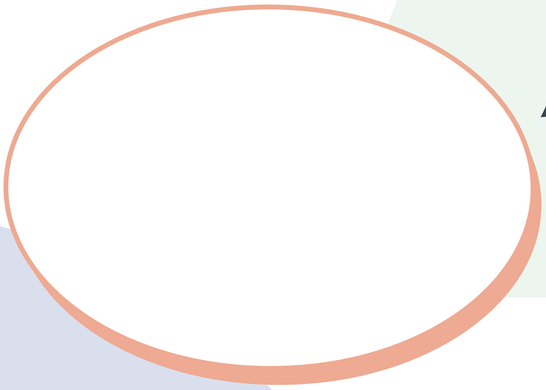
How many different ways to tell time can you spot? Can you read them all?

Record your answer here.



It's Your Year

Find something from the year you were born. If you can't find an exact date, make a prediction!

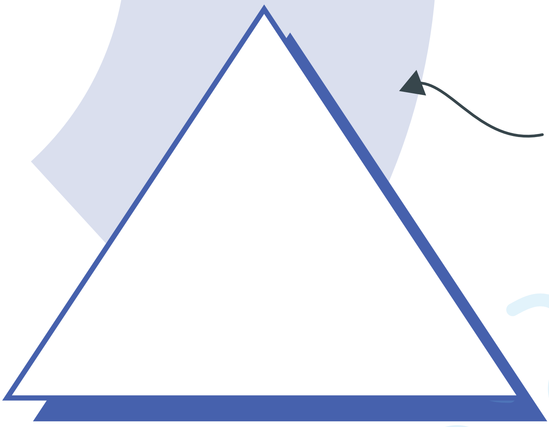


Walk the Walk

Find a spot where you can walk a short distance. Time yourself! How fast can you make it across? How slow?

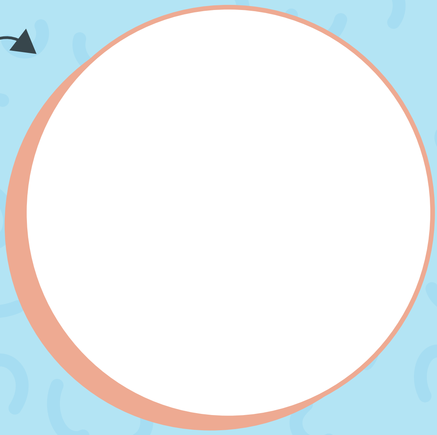
Feel the Beat

Find your heart beat. How many times does it beat in 10 seconds?



Think Back

Think about your visit. Where did you spend the most time? The least time?



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Scavenger Hunt

This or That

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This or That

Finding Math

Take One!

Near and Far

Get out your searching binoculars! Can you find 2 things that are near, and 2 things that are far?

Record your answer here.

Using spatial language like "near," "far," "high," "low," "big," and "small," helps children understand how different things relate to each other in space. This is spatial reasoning, an important early math skill.

High and Low

Reach for the sky! Now, touch your toes! Can you find 2 things up high, and 2 things down low?

Pair spatial language with big body movements! This helps to reinforce the connection between language and actions.

Big and Small

Stretch your body as big as you can! Now, curl up small. Can you find 2 things that are bigger than you, and 2 things that are smaller than you?

Try using different spatial words with your child. You could talk about walking "around" a chair, putting your hands "in" your pockets, putting something "under" the table, or sitting "next to" your friend!

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Scavenger Hunt

Play it By Ear

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Play It By Ear

Finding Math

Take One!

Copy Me

Find an object that makes a sound. Can you make the same sound?

Record your answer here.

Copying silly sounds is a way for children to explore pattern and rhythm, which are key elements in language learning! Repetition and call-and-response helps children develop these essential skills.

Feel the Beat

Clap together! Can you keep a beat?

Clapping is an easy way to share music with children. Help your child learn pattern recognition and rhythm by trying out different beats and movements!

Bang the Drum

Pat your hand on different surfaces. Explore the sound they make! Did you discover a new instrument?

Anything can be a musical instrument! Experiment with different surfaces and materials. Notice how the sounds change, and point these differences out to your child.

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Play it By Ear

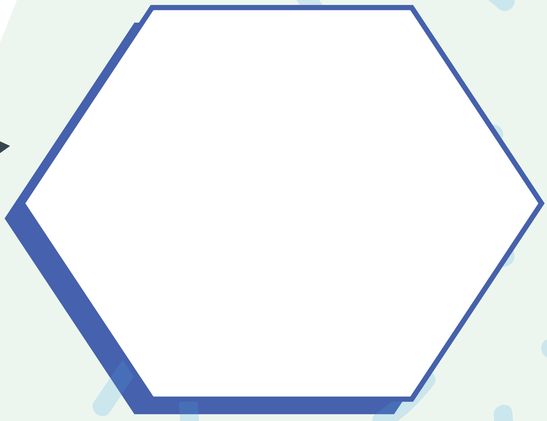
Finding Math

Take Two!

Listen Up

Find a spot where it is safe to close your eyes. What do you hear?

Record your answer here.



In Tune

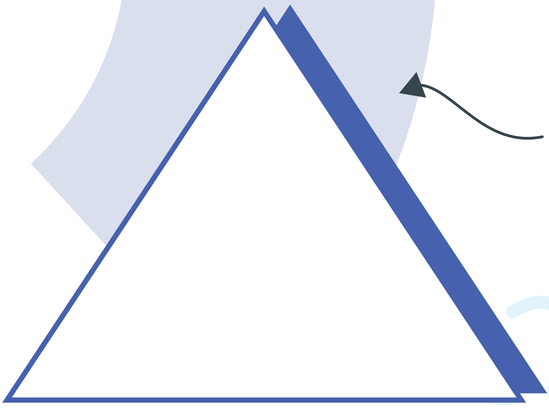
Hum your favorite song. Can your friend guess what song you are humming?

Tip Toe

Listen to your footsteps. Where are they the quietest? Where are they the loudest?

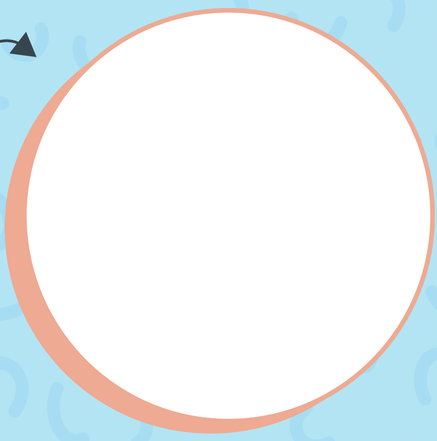
Sound Off

Find an object that makes a sound. Can you make the same sound? What parts of your body did you use?



Bounce Back

An echo happens when sound bounces back to us. Can you find a spot to make an echo? Be mindful of others around you!



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Scavenger Hunt

Numbers Game

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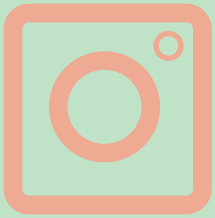

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Numbers Game

Finding Math

Take One!

Count On It

How high can you count? Using your fingers, count together!

Record your answer here.

Counting is more than just saying numbers in order! Counting helps children learn one-to-one correspondence, the concept that allows us to understand that numbers represent specific quantities.

Spot It

Find something with spots. How many are there? When you count, touch the spot while you say the number!

When children are learning one-to-one correspondence, touch can be super helpful! As you count spots, or fingers, or toes, touch each object as you say the number. Have your child do the same!

The Big One

Find a big number. It may be as big as your hand, or as tall as you! Can you trace it with your finger?

Tracing is an early writing skill. It helps children practice important fine motor skills they need for using writing implements!

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Numbers Game

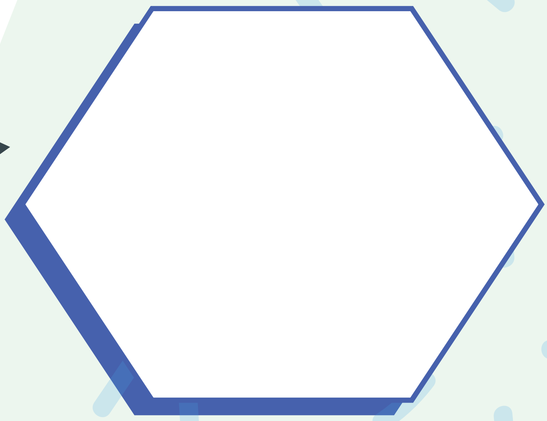
Finding Math

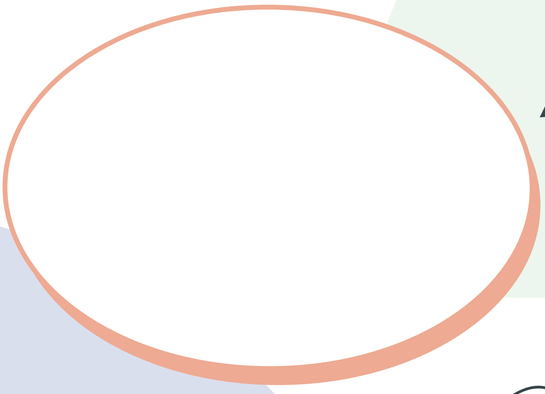
Take Two!

At Your Age

How old are you? Can you find your age number?

Record your answer here.



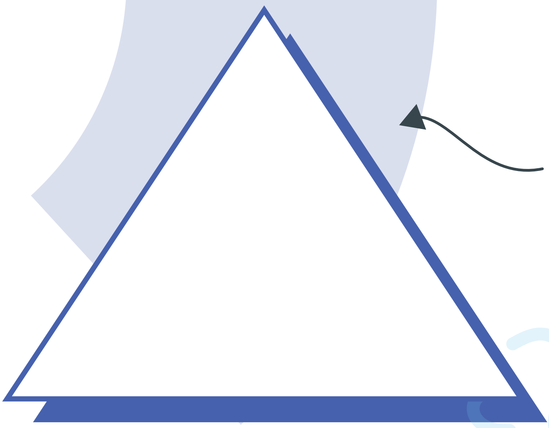


The Big One

Find the biggest number. What is it? Can you say it?

Check it Twice

Lists are usually numbered! Can you find a numbered list? How many items are on the list?

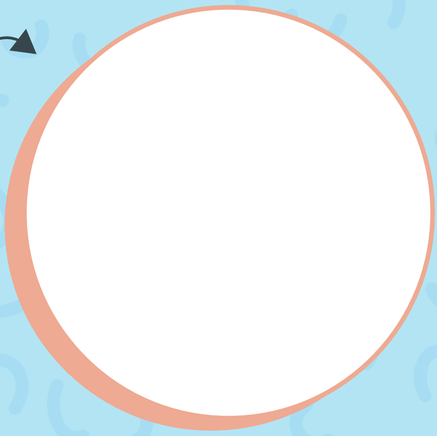


These Parts

Can you find one fraction and one percentage?

Absolute Unit

Lots of numbers come with "units," like pounds, seconds, or feet. How many numbers with "units" can you find?



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Scavenger Hunt

Body Language

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Body Language

Finding Math

Take One!

Just a Feeling

Go on a texture hunt! How many different textures can you find?

Record your answer here.

Exploring different textures is a fun way for children to develop body sense and spatial skills. Count how many different textures you can find - which is your favorite texture to touch?

Fashion Forward

Are you wearing a pattern? Can you find a similar pattern?

Patterns are everywhere! Understanding the features of patterns like repetition, shape, and design, is an important early math skill. If you aren't wearing a pattern, see how many different patterns you can spot instead!

One Direction

Can you find a pattern on the ground? If you follow it, where does it take you?

Following directions, whether they are verbal or non-verbal, helps children develop spatial reasoning. This is also an early coding skill!

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Body Language

Finding Math

Take Two!

Arm's Length

Stretch out your arms. Can you find something as long as your arm span?

Record your answer here.

Fashion Forward

Take a peek at your outfit. Are you wearing a pattern? Can you find a similar pattern?

Just a Feeling

Go on a texture hunt! Can you find something rough? Something fuzzy? Something slimy?

One Direction

Pick a spot in the space. Without telling your friend their destination, give them directions! Can they get to the right spot?

Eye Spy

Play a round of "I Spy"! Can you get a friend to guess what you're looking at with just one clue?

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