

Month 1 Letter Home

Dear Family Member:

Our class will use a curriculum called *Math Trailblazers*[®]. We will create a mathematics classroom where students work together on meaningful and challenging tasks and discuss their ideas with their peers, teacher, and family. You will receive a letter at the beginning of each month that updates you on the math concepts and skills your child is learning. At times, I will ask you to participate by sending items to school, playing a math game with your child, or helping with homework assignments.

During the first month, students will get to know each other by learning and comparing our names, our ages, how tall we are, and when our birthdays are on the calendar. We will also describe and sort our shoes. All of this comparing creates a reason to count, sort, and learn about numbers.

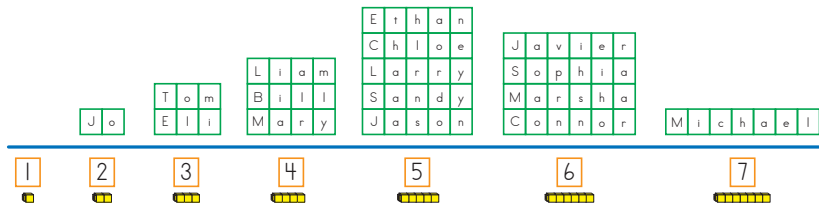


Figure 1: Compare and Sort Names

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You can help by providing additional mathematics opportunities at home.

Order Objects. Ask your child to put a collection of things (e.g., containers, toys, dolls, blocks) in order from shortest to longest or shortest to tallest.

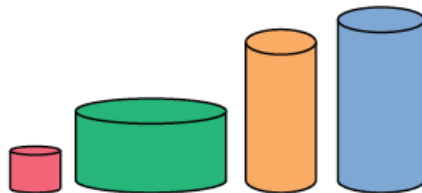


Figure 2: Order objects by height

Count Things. While you are out and about, ask your child to count objects the two of you see. How many grapes are you holding? How many napkins are on the table? How many apples are in the fruit bowl?

Number Hunt. Ask your child to look for numbers and talk about what the numbers are used for when you are in different places. Is the number used as a label (like an address),

to show how much something costs, to show what order things are in, or to show many things there are?

Count. Start with 1 and see how high your child can count. Count together or take turns saying each number. Count from one and then count back to one.

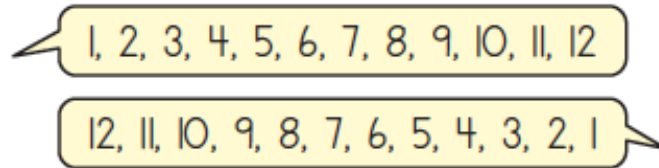


Figure 3: Counting

Play Counting Games. There are many family games that also involve counting and number recognition. Hi Ho Cherry-O, Chutes and Ladders, Go Fish, and Uno are a few that are popular and easy to find.

I look forward to working you and your child. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or comments.

Sincerely,