

# MATHS FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

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## Early Childhood eXchange: Mathematics

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The term “infant” is typically applied to young children under the age 1, however, definitions may vary and may include children up to two years of age. A toddler is usually a child of 1-3 years of age. These years of the infant and toddler are years of great cognitive, emotional and social development. They learn faster and better as they deal with things they are familiar with. Mathematics for infants and toddlers is all about the basics. Keep in mind that most Math activities revolve around play and participatory style. Infants and toddlers learn through repetition in diverse ways, making conscious efforts to include basic Math in your daily class conversations with infants and toddlers can help them start to understand early Mathematics concepts. Early Mathematics concepts such as;

1. Counting and identification of numbers
2. Sorting and classifying
3. Shapes
4. Measurement
5. Zero
6. More

### **Counting and identification of numbers**

Counting using building blocks, shoe lace, beads and buttons (these should be big sizes because of the age).

### **Shapes**

The use of craft sticks to make some shapes. Shape matching game, exercise games (jumping into shapes), building blocks, shape rain etc.

### **Sorting and classifying**

The use of colors, shapes, sizes, numbers etc. Infants can begin to learn how to sort and classify different things, so they can make sense of what is going on around their environment.

### **Measurement**

Talking about size, weight, length, time etc. are important in helping children learn basic measurement skills.

### **Zero**

Infants and toddlers math activities should include the concept of zero. E.g. “ it’s gone”, there’s nothing left”.

### **More**

One of the first math concepts children understand is concept of more, e.g. “ do you want more?”, “this pile has more blocks than the other”.

**Presentation by Mrs. Rahila Fred Olusi.**