

Math Interventions for Special Needs Children: Ideas and Strategies

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Early Childhood eXchange: Mathematics

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Teaching math to special needs children is slightly different from teaching math in a regular classroom because the teacher will need to modify his/her goals and lesson plan depending on the child. We recommend the following math interventions that you can use for children with special needs.

1. **Learning Number Figures through _____.** Special needs children learn best with *multi-sensory* learning. Making number figures out of play dough and playing with foam or plastic numbers shapes are very effective activities.
2. _____ **Basic Number Concept.** Basic number concept involves the understanding of how many objects are associated with a particular number. Special needs children often struggle with the concept of numbers and need a lot of practice in this area.
3. **Focusing on _____ Goals.** Most special needs children may not be able to cope with the entire range of math curriculum that regular children study. A teacher will need to decide on which skills are most important for a child to learn and practice. Functional skills like number concepts, weighing, measuring, use of money and arranging numbers are more important than division or algebra.
4. **Use _____ - _____ on materials to improve your child's math comprehension.** Improve your child's understanding of math concepts by using familiar objects to set up and solve math problems. Teach using multisensory methods to stimulate your child's thinking skills. Include technology, like iPads, computers and other games to help with comprehension.
5. **Practice Math through _____ and _____.** Games and art activities can be modified throughout the day to teach various math skills. Let the children be creative as well as learn math, by asking them to draw a picture of their family, and then counting their family members with them. Play games which involve counting.

We cannot overemphasize how using fun and play to teach math to special needs children will make it easier for the children to learn.