



Early Math Bags: Suggested Sequence

Level 1:

Bag EM1 Spatial Concepts

Where is--? (Space)

Learning about Shapes (Geometry)

Exploring Patterns (Pre-Algebra)

Bag EM2 Pre-Math

How Big? (Physical properties - seriation)

Sorting (Classification - inclusion)

Level 2:

Bag EM3 Learning About Numbers

Numbers Are Everywhere (Numeracy)

How Many? (Numeracy- Counting - One-to-one correspondence)

More With Numbers (Number operations - comparisons-measurement)

Level 3:-

Bag EM4 Measuring Things (Measurement)

Bag EM5 Making Maps (Spatial literacy)

- 1. Send home a literacy bag with parent activities and checklists approximately once every two weeks.**
- 2. Make sure parents understand they need to complete the checklists and return them with the early math bag.**
- 3. Use suggested sequence or adapt as appropriate. For example send home an early math bag that matches a topic or theme addressed in a recent classroom activity.**

What's in this bag, what do we do with it, and why is this important for my child?

Bag # EM1: Spatial Concepts

Contents:

- Activity sheets pages 1. 2 & 3 (in plastic sleeve)
- Parent checklist, fill out when you're done
- Warning label
- Crayons
- White paper
- Book on spatial concepts
- Book on shapes and colors
- Colored beads and pegs
- String
- Musical instrument (e.g., maracas, tambourine)

Overview:

- Read through the activity sheets to get a general idea of the literacy focus of this bag
- Use the book on spatial concepts to talk about positions in space following the ideas in activity 1.
- Use crayons and paper to draw shapes and patterns following the ideas in activity 2.
- Use the book on shapes and colors to talk about shapes following the ideas in activity 2.

- Use the musical instrument to make sound patterns, following the ideas in activity 3.
- Use the colored beads and/or pegs to copy the model and create new patterns, following the ideas in activity 3.

Purpose and Importance:

- To help your child learn how his/her own body fits in space
- To learn about shapes of objects and their positions in space.
- To help your child observe and recognize patterns in sounds, colors, shapes and activities. To learn other functional uses for literacy
- Learning about shapes of objects and their positions in space will help your child understand geometry.
- Patterning helps understand relationships between things.

Have fun!

Don't forget to return this bag, along with the checklists, to your child's teacher.

What's in this bag, what do we do with it, and why is this important for my child?

Bag # EM 2: Pre-Math

Contents:

- Activity sheets pages 5 & 6 (in plastic sleeve)
- Parent checklist, fill out when you're done
- Warning label
- Toy animals
- Small objects
- Containers of different sizes
- Miniature fruit

Overview:

- Read through the activity sheets to get a general idea of the literacy focus of this bag
- Use the toy animals to talk about big and little, following the ideas in activity 5
- Use the containers to fit them inside each other and to put them in order according to size, following the ideas in activity 5
- Sort small objects by color and place in same color container, following the ideas in activity 6.
- Use fruit for sorting and comparing which group has more, following the ideas in activity 6.

Purpose:

- To explore physical properties of objects like size and weight
- To learn to put things into groups
- To learn how to put things in an order
- Using numbers to describe the physical characteristics of objects is an important application of mathematics
- Putting objects into groups helps understand the concepts of *how many*.
- Learning about order and sequence helps understand concepts of *more* and *less*.

Have fun!

Don't forget to return this bag, along with the checklists, to your child's teacher.

What's in this bag, what do we do with it, and why is this important for my child?

Bag # EM3: Learning About Numbers

Contents:

- Activity sheets pages 7, 8, & 9 (in plastic sleeve)
- Parent checklist, fill out when you're done
- Warning label
- Book about numbers
- Number tiles
- Blocks

Overview:

- Read through the activity sheets to get a general idea of the literacy focus of this bag
- Use the book about numbers and the number tiles to help your child learn the names of numbers and count things, following the ideas in activities 7 and 8.
- Use blocks to count and compare groups of different sizes, following the ideas in activity 9.
- Use blocks and number tiles to help your child learn about the order of numbers and operations (adding and subtracting), following the ideas in activity 9.

Purpose:

- To learn the names of numbers and to count in the correct order
- To explore different ways of using numbers
- To learn to use numbers to describe how many objects are in a group and to compare which has more and which has less.
- Using numbers to count and measure things helps learn mathematics.

Have fun!

Don't forget to return this bag, along with the checklists, to your child's teacher.

What's in this bag, what do we do with it, and why is this important for my child?

Bag # EM4: Measuring

Contents:

- Activity sheet page 10 (in plastic sleeve)
- Parent checklist, fill out when you're done
- Warning label
- Spiral-bound notebook
- Paperclips
- Tape measure
- String
- Unifix cubes
- Measuring cup and spoons
- Book about measuring things
- Number tiles

Overview:

- Read through the activity sheets to get a general idea of the focus of this bag
- Use all the materials in the bag to measure things in your home and neighborhood, following the ideas in activity 10

Purpose:

- To explore different ways of measuring
- To become familiar with measuring tools
- To learn that numbers can be used to describe quantities and dimensions
- Measuring and using numbers to is a useful way of describing things

Have fun!

Don't forget to return this bag, along with the checklists, to your child's teacher.

What's in this bag, what do we do with it,
and why is this important for my child?

Bag # EM5: Making Maps

Contents:

- Activity sheets page 4 (in plastic sleeve)
- Parent checklist, fill out when you're done
- Warning label
- Magnifying glass
- Crayons
- Brown paper sack
- White label stickers
- White paper
- Pencil
- Markers
- Scotch tape
- Post-its
- MapQuest map of your child's school (in plastic sleeve)
- Book about maps

Overview:

- Read through the activity sheets to get a general idea of the focus of this bag

- Use all the materials in the bag to make maps of your home and neighborhood, following the ideas in activity 4

Purpose and Importance:

- To explore your neighborhood with your child
- To discover other ways to use writing to communicate - making maps!
- To learn about positions of objects in space
- To build vocabulary about space, location and directions.
- Learning that there are many different ways to express ideas and information using marks and written symbols.

Have fun!

Don't forget to return this bag, along with the checklists, to your child's teacher.