



Preschool Press March 2017



Are you looking to connect with other preschool parents?

Well, we have the perfect solution for you!

You are invited to take a step on your faith journey by participating in a discussion group. Small groups can be a meaningful way for us to connect with others and God and to grow spiritually in real ways. We encourage preschool parents to give it a try and to sign up.

FREEWAY is a journey to freedom built upon **God's amazing grace**, conversations with **friends**, and an honest exploration of our **not-so-perfect** stories. **FREEWAY** is a way to be **free**.

The group will meet on Mondays starting March 6 and run for 7 weeks. The time will be 9:15 to 10:30. Pastor April Blaine and preschool parent Trisha Clark will be facilitating the group. Babysitting will be provided.

If you would like to join this group, please email Robin at robin@hilliardumcpreschool.org

Engaging Counting Books

ROAR! A Noisy Counting Book by Pamela Duncan Edwards

Click, Clack, Splish, Splash A Counting Adventure by Doreen Cronin

One Duck Stuck by Phyllis Root

Gray Rabbit's 1,2,3 by Alan Baker

Count the Monkeys by Mac Barnett & Kevin Cornell

1,2,3 To The Zoo by Eric Carle

Over in the Meadow by David Carter

Over in the Artic Where the Cold Winds Blow by Marianne Berkes

5 Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed by Eileen Christelow

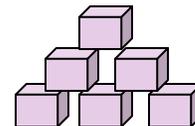
Chicka, Chicka 1,2,3 by Bill Martin Jr.

Ten Apples on Top by Dr. Seuss

Count to Ten with a Mouse by Margaret Wise Brown

THE EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS OF PLAYING WITH BLOCKS

by Anne Marie Margaritondo



Are old fashioned blocks boring or beneficial? With all of the technology children have access to today, sometimes blocks can seem, well, *boring*. However, don't underestimate this age-old toy. Blocks remain one of the most important toys for children to use in order to develop critical skills for school and for life.

Through block play, children learn the following skills:

Science Concepts: Children learn science when they experience gravity as their constructions fall. They also learn the use of simple machines as they build ramps to their buildings.

Spatial Reasoning: Young designers learn to manipulate space and objects through block play. Will this fit here? Will this fall down? Will this make the shape I want? Block play allows children to explore navigation of space and direction.

Math Concepts: Some of the math skills encountered through block play include counting, comparison of length and width, names of shapes and how to combine certain geometric shapes to make other shapes. Children are even learning the basics of addition when they discover that two short blocks will be the same size as another block.

Reading and Writing Skills: Through block play, children understand the importance of sequence, an important early reading skill, as they retell their experiences with the blocks. Both parents and teachers can help children write stories about what they are building.

Language Skills: Little builders learn language skills and vocabulary as they discuss what they are building.

Cooperation and Responsibility: Children learn cooperation and sharing as they work together with family members or other children during their play. In addition, they learn how to be responsible when they clean up after they are done with the blocks.

The next time you're in a quandary over what kind of gift to purchase for your child's next birthday party, don't forget to consider a quality set of building blocks.

March Themes

Transportation

Dr. Seuss

Veterinarian and Our Pets

Blocks Are Math

Words that Rhyme

Wind & Kites

Celebrate Spring

St. Patrick's Day

Birds Nesting

We Are Going on a Safari

National Crayon Day



Letters of
the Week

Vv, Ww, & Ee

March Calendar

March 1: Tuition Due

March 5: Freeway Group
Study Begins

All are Welcome
Babysitting provided.

March 6: Late Fees Begin

March 20-24: Spring Break
No School

Building a Love of Math

Engaging your preschooler in learning through developmentally appropriate practices can be rewarding for both of you. The look of joy on their faces as they discover something for the first time or the simple enthusiasm they display when they have their aha moment are rewards in and of themselves. You, as your child's first teacher, can begin to lay the foundation of early math literacy in fun and engaging ways with items already in your home. Preschoolers are eager to learn, so let's get counting.

- Count steps as you climb them.
- When fixing snack, have your child help count out raisins, crackers, carrots...
- Play simple board games where your child moves the game piece from one position to the next.
- Let your child count your fingers and toes, it will surely bring a smile.
- Help your child line up toys, such as cars, and then count them together.
- Measuring and pouring are favorite activities of preschoolers, so why not bake something together.
- Ask your child how many chocolate chips it would take to fill a 1/2 cup. Pour, then count.
- Measure your child's height every month or so, showing how to use a yardstick or tape measure. Mark his or her height on a "growth chart" or mark a door frame. Help your child compare his or her own height to previous months.
- Count how many jumping jacks he or she can do.
- Ask your child how far can you throw a ball. Have them guess, then throw the ball, and then measure the distance.
- While playing with blocks talk about their different shapes. Count how many blocks were used.
- Practice simple addition and subtraction using small toys and blocks.
- Using post-it notes, hide the numbers 1 - 10 and have your child search for the numbers. Have your child name the number as it is found.
- Look for different shapes around the house.
- Cut a few (3-5) pieces of ribbon, yarn or paper in different lengths. Talk about ideas like long and short. With your child, put in order of longest to shortest.
- Point out the different shapes and colors you see during the day. On a walk, you may see a triangle-shaped sign that's yellow. Inside a store you may see a rectangle-shaped sign that's red.
- Sing songs that rhyme, repeat, or have numbers in them. Songs reinforce patterns (which is a math skill as well). They also are fun ways to practice language and foster social skills like cooperation.
- Gather together a basket of small toys, shells, pebbles or buttons. Count them with your child. Sort them based on size, color, or what they do (i.e., all the cars in one pile, all the animals in another).

