

# Early Math for Later Success

Mounting evidence suggests that children who do well in math at an early stage have greater chances of success in school and overall achievement. Math is a tool for children to develop critical thinking, learn how to problem-solve, and make sense of the world.

Teaching early math builds on children's natural inclination to play with numbers, shapes, and other aspects of math from as early as their infant and toddler years. Talking about math with children and asking them to describe their math reasoning are two very important supports for learning.

## More than just numbers

Parents and early educators help children develop math skills by:



### ENCOURAGING

play with numbers, matching, comparing, and exploring shapes.



### EXPLORING

math concepts and ideas at home and in school.



### ENGAGING

children in understanding numbers, symbols, and quantities verbally and in writing.



### ASKING

children to look for patterns and shapes that they experience every day.



### CREATING

effective learning experiences for children through supportive, research-based, teaching practices.



### TALKING

about math and asking children to explain their math ideas.

## The Heising-Simons Foundation's Education Program

The Foundation's Education program focuses on children ages birth through 8 years and includes grantmaking in early math, family engagement, early educational transitions, and early education policy. We strive to inspire greater understanding of early math as a catalyst for, and contributor to, children's school success and engagement in learning. We aim to advance high-quality math instruction and activities at home, in early childhood education programs, in schools and child care settings, and in communities.

The Heising-Simons Foundation is a family foundation located in Los Altos, California. In 2015, the Foundation awarded more than \$42.8 million through 188 grants and one program-related investment.



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