

## Montessori Toddler Math Skills at Home Checklist

Real-life activities that build early math foundations—no flashcards required.



### Concrete to Abstract Thinking

- ☐ Stacks blocks, rings, or cups from largest to smallest – builds understanding of size and order through play.
- ☐ Pours water or dry materials between containers – practices volume and cause-and-effect (e.g., during bath time or helping in the kitchen).
- ☐ Transfers objects using hands, scoops or tongs – strengthens coordination and prepares for measuring skills (e.g., scooping beans during snack prep).
- ☐ Matches lids to containers or shapes to cutouts – develops problem solving and spatial awareness (e.g., cleaning up Tupperware drawer).
- ☐ Notices when something is full, empty, or overflowing – early observation of quantity and comparison (e.g., pouring juice or watering plants).



### One-to-One Correspondence

- ☐ Sets one item at each place (e.g., one fork per placemat) – supports counting and matching.
- ☐ Places one toy in each compartment or cup – practices equal grouping (e.g., sorting puzzle pieces or snack portions).
- ☐ Hands one item at a time during cleanup or sharing – builds intentionality and counting rhythm.
- ☐ Helps pack items into a bag, lunchbox, or shelf with one-per-spot placement – strengthens organizing and association (e.g., prepping school bag).



### Everyday Real-Life Math

- ☐ Sorts laundry by type or person – practices classifying and comparing.
- ☐ Helps with food prep (counting fruit slices, scooping flour, etc.) – builds awareness of quantity and process.
- ☐ Measures or pours during baking or cooking – introduces real-life measuring and estimating.
- ☐ Helps clean up by sorting and organizing – supports categorization and spatial understanding.



### Indirect Math Preparation

- ☐ Follows multi-step routines or sequences – lays groundwork for understanding process and order (e.g., brushing teeth then putting on pajamas).
- ☐ Repeats the same practical life task with growing precision – encourages accuracy and refinement (e.g., wiping table or watering plants).

- ☐ Works with cause-and-effect toys or materials – builds early logical thinking (e.g., toys that require pushing a button to get a result).
- ☐ Matches or categorizes by shape, size, or category – prepares for sorting, classifying, and organizing data (e.g., sorting socks or blocks).

### **Visual Discrimination Skills**

- ☐ Matches objects to identical objects or pictures – supports early reading and categorizing skills (e.g., matching puzzle pieces or card sets).
- ☐ Sorts items by size, color, or category – builds early graphing and comparison skills (e.g., sorting fruits or crayons).
- ☐ Completes simple puzzles (2–3 pieces or shape boards) – strengthens problem solving and recognition.
- ☐ Stacks or nests objects based on size – builds awareness of order, dimension, and visual comparison.

### **Emotional & Cognitive Readiness**

- ☐ Practices waiting, taking turns, or completing a task – supports focus, patience, and frustration tolerance.
- ☐ Tries again after mistakes or failed attempts – builds resilience and persistence (e.g., reworking a puzzle or stacking blocks again).
- ☐ Focuses for longer periods on chosen work – prepares brain for complex, multi-step math later.
- ☐ Solves simple problems (e.g., how to carry multiple items) – nurtures independent thinking and spatial planning.