



HEAD START PERFORMANCE STANDARDS SUPPORT MATH!

PART 1302- PROGRAM OPERATIONS

- Subpart C - Education and Child Development Program Services
 - 1302.30 Purpose
 - 1302.31 Teaching and the learning environment
 - 1302.35 Education in home-based programs

All programs must provide high-quality early education and child development services that include children with disabilities and promote children’s cognitive, social, and emotional growth. Teaching practices should not only provide learning experiences that support all of the developmental domains in the ELOF, such as math and cognitive development, but also foster trust and security and support children’s developmental progressions by intentionally creating an environment that builds on children’s individual development and learning patterns. Additionally, home-based programs must encourage parents as the child’s first teacher and support parents as they provide high-quality early math experiences.

1. Children’s success in math-related skills is linked to school readiness goals. Therefore, it is important to provide a high-quality, math-rich environment for young children to help them learn. Using math language such as “Please pick up 2 blocks” or “You have 4 carrots on your plate” helps children develop a sense of number and quantity and eventually perceptual subitizing—recognizing the number of objects in small groups without counting. Additionally, playing games with two dice helps promote conceptual subitizing—putting together the parts of multiple sets.



2. The Cognition domain of the Early Learning Outcome Framework (ELOF) supports number recognition and subitizing. Children develop a sense of number and quantity during the infant and toddler years and will begin to recognize the number of small objects in groups without counting! These are ELOF goals across the developmental continuum for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.



3. Supporting children’s number recognition and subitizing skills is present in much of what you do. This is not an additional curriculum piece to add to your planning and practices. Providing children with a number-rich environment, labeling “how many” during daily interactions, and using math language are all ways to support math development and growth.

