

20 Ways to Use Magnetic Numbers with your Child



1. **Number Hunt** Hide the numbers around the house and have your child find them and identify the numeral.
2. **Counting Sets** Have your child choose a numeral and then find that many of an object
3. **Playdough Press** Have your child press a numeral into playdough and have them trace the numeral with their finger as they name it.
4. **Number Order** Have your child put the numbers in order from 1 to 10.
5. **Number Tracing** Have your child trace the numeral with a pencil.
6. **Number Sort** Have your child sort the numbers that are curved from those that are straight.
7. **Countdown** Have your child put the numerals in order from 10 to 0 and practice counting down.
8. **More or Less** Choose two numerals and have your child identify which is more and which is less.
9. **Number Jumps** Choose a numeral and have your child jump, hop, etc. that number of times.
10. **One to One** Put items for each number and have your child count by touching each item and saying the number that corresponds to the item.
11. **Counting On** Choose a number and have your child find the number that comes after it.
12. **Counting Off** Choose a number and have your child find the number that comes before it.

13. **Colour Sort** Have your child sort the numbers by colour
14. **Adding Numbers** Choose two numbers and have your child use counters to help add them together.
15. **Number Ordinals** Have your child put the numbers in order and use the words first, second, third, etc.
16. **Telephone Number** Have your child use the numbers to practice their telephone number.
17. **Missing Number** Hide a few numbers under a towel and take one away, remove the towel and see if they can identify which number is missing.
18. **Number Words** Write out number words (i.e., two, three, five) and have them match the numerals to the words.
19. **Name Number** Choose a word and have your child count the number of letters in the word and find the number that corresponds.
20. **Feely Numbers** Put a number in a bag and see if they can identify it by how it feels.

12 Ways to Use Magnetic Letters with your Child



1. **Letter Play** Encourage your child to play with letters on the refrigerator or on a table. Playing with letters allows children to learn more about how they look.
2. **Making Names** A child's name is the most important word! Have your child make their name several times, mixing up the letters, make their name and check spelling with their name written on a card.

3. **Letter Match** Invite your child to find other letters that look exactly the same as a letter in their name (e.g., place an m on the refrigerator and have the child find all the ones that look like it). They don't need to know the letter name.
4. **Name Game** Have your child make names of friends and family. Have them make the name, mix the letters, and make the names several times.
5. **Making Words** Make a simple word like mom or dad or sun and have your child make the same word by matching each letter below the model (sun -- s-u-n).
6. **Alphabet Train** Have your child put the lowercase magnetic letters in the order of the alphabet. Then they can point to them and sing the alphabet song. Have them repeat the process with uppercase letters.
7. **Feature Sort** Have your child letters in a variety of ways, e.g., letters with long sticks and letters with short sticks, letters with a circle and letters with no circles, letters with tunnels and letters with dots, letters with slanted sticks and letters with straight sticks.
8. **UPPERCASE/lowercase Match** Have your child match the uppercase letters to the lowercase form.
9. **Find the Letter** Make a set of alphabet letters, lowercase, on a set of index cards. Shuffle the "deck" and take turns drawing a card and finding the magnetic letter that corresponds to it.
10. **Alphabet Sequence** Place a letter on a table and have your child find the letter that comes after or before it.
11. **Letter Sort** Place a pile of magnetic letters on the table for your child to spread out. Have your child put all the letters that are the same together in a pile. Then if appropriate, have your child give the letter name for each pile.
12. **Letter Chains** Make a five letter chain (for example pfrmo). Have your child find the same letters and make the same chain below your model. Then have your child make a chain that you copy.

Tips for Reading with Your Child



Before Reading

1. Hold the book together. Talk about the front cover of the book before you begin. Ask your child what they think the story is going to be about. Have them label objects/people in the picture or photograph.
2. Talk about any concepts or words in the story that are unfamiliar to your child.

During Reading

1. Go for a "picture walk" through the story first. Look at each picture and talk about what they see, what they think is happening and ask them why they think what they said.
2. Read the story to your child. You can stop and ask them to make predictions by saying, "What do you think will happen next?"
3. You can **echo** read the book with your child (you read a sentence and have your child repeat it after you). You can **choral** read the book with your child (you read the words with your child). You can also use a **cloze** technique (leave out key words and try to have your child fill in the missing words on their own) when reading with your child.
4. Let your child take over when he or she is ready to try it on their own.

After Reading

1. Encourage your child to respond to the story. Ask them what they liked most and least about the story. Ask them to orally retell the story to see if they understood what was happening.

