

Parent Tipsheets

Cut these apart and copy them on brightly colored paper. Send them home once a week while the poster named is on display.

1. General: Children learn best by actively working with and observing things in their environment. You can encourage their learning by observing and asking questions about what they are doing. Children may not always be able to answer your questions, but you can help them figure out the answer.
2. Poster 1: What is alike? What is different? Children can group or classify things in various ways. Encourage your child to show or tell you what is alike or different about things you see (wherever you are), items the child plays with, or food he or she eats.
3. Poster 1: Which group has more? Which group has less? Do the groups have the same amount? Before learning about addition and subtraction, it helps children to learn the concepts of "more," "less," and "the same." Encourage your child to compare two groups of items and show or tell you which group has more, which group has less, or if both groups have the same amount of items.
4. Poster 2: Which one is bigger? Which one is smaller? Children can compare things many different ways using terms such as "bigger," "smaller," "longer," "shorter," "wider," "thinner," etc. Encourage your child to show or tell you if things are bigger or smaller than one another.
5. Poster 2: How can we share? Is there one for every person? Counting is more meaningful to children when they apply it directly to objects. Encourage your child to think about numbers by having him or her help set the table and get enough plates for everyone who is eating, or sharing snacks so everyone gets an equal amount.
6. Poster 3: What comes next? Patterns occur in many different forms and help children learn about order. Patterns can be something we see, sounds we hear, movements we make, or even a regular morning routine. Encourage your child to think about patterns by asking him or her to show or predict what should come next.

7. Poster 3: Can you make a pattern? Tell me about it. Children have wonderful creativity and can produce their own patterns. Encourage your child to engage in activities that allow him or her to create a pattern. For example, your child could create a movement pattern (clapping, then jumping, then clapping, then jumping) or he or she could order items into a pattern or draw a pattern. Encourage your child to tell you about the patterns.
8. Poster 4: What do you see, hear, smell, taste, feel? Children learn about the world around them by using their five senses. Encourage your child to describe what he or she sees, hears, smells, tastes, or feels.
9. Poster 4: How can we find out? What do you think we will find? Children are naturally curious and motivated, like little scientists, to learn about objects in their world. Encourage your child to answer his or her own questions by experimenting with things, making predictions, and showing or telling you what he or she learned.
10. Poster 5: What has changed? What has stayed the same? Many things change and many things stay the same. Encourage your child to show or tell you about changes (in the weather, in his or her growth, in plants, in animals) and what is happening, as well as what is staying the same.
11. Poster 5: How often does that happen? Does that happen a lot? Sometimes events occur very often (e.g., on a daily basis) and other events occur very infrequently (e.g., once a year). Encourage your child to attend to regularities and special events and their frequency.

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