



This is the fourth in a series of Learning on the Go Tips about early math skills that help children get ready for school.

## **Learning on the Go: Early Learning Tips for Young Children**

### **Estimating and Predicting**

Estimating and predicting skills are important for both math and science, and they also help children become critical thinkers. Here are some ideas for learning these skills:

- Daily routines give opportunities for babies and toddlers to predict: first we wash our hands, then we put on a bib, then ...?
- Stop in the middle of a new book and ask your child: "What do you think will happen next?" Or look at the cover and see if you can predict what will happen in the story.
- Ask questions like: How many seeds do you suppose this apple has? How many stuffed animals do you think are in this tub? Which do you think would be bigger: a stack of five pennies or a stack of five dimes?
- "Sink or float" is a fun game for bath time. Give your child a variety of objects that can go in the water and ask him to predict whether they will sink or float.
- Your child could try guessing which toys of a similar size are heavier and which are lighter. If you have a small scale at home, you could even weigh them.

The most important part is to have FUN while helping your child learn to estimate and predict!

This publication was produced in whole or in part with funds from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement, Parental Information and Resource Center program, under grant # 84.310A. The content herein does not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Education, any other agency of the U.S. government, or any other source.