

Magna-Tile Math Adventures!

Materials Needed:

- A set of Magna-Tiles (various shapes and colors)
- Optional: Number flashcards (1-5)
- A flat surface to build on (floor, table)

Lesson Activities:

1. Warm-up: Shape Sorting & Counting (5 mins)

Spread out some Magna-Tiles. Ask your child: "Can you find all the squares? Let's count them!" Repeat with triangles or other shapes available. Count together slowly.

2. Activity 1: Building Number Towers (10 mins)

Say: "Let's build a tower that is 3 tiles tall!" Help your child count out 3 tiles and stack them. Repeat with different numbers (1-5). You can use number flashcards for visual cues. Ask: "Which tower is taller, the tower of 2 or the tower of 4?"

3. Activity 2: Adding Tiles Together (10 mins)

Place 2 Magna-Tiles on the building surface. Ask: "How many tiles are there?" (Child counts 2). Now, place 1 more tile next to them. Say: "Look, we added 1 more! How many tiles do we have altogether now? Let's count!" (Child counts 3). Practice with different simple combinations adding up to 5 (e.g., 1+1, 2+2, 3+1, 4+1). Make it a game: "I have 2 red tiles. You have 2 blue tiles. How many tiles do we have if we put them together?"

4. Activity 3: Taking Tiles Away (10 mins)

Build a small structure or line with 4 Magna-Tiles. Ask: "How many tiles are in our line?" (Child counts 4). Say: "Oh dear, let's pretend a little wind blew 1 tile away!" Remove one tile. Ask: "How many tiles are left now? Let's count!" (Child counts 3). Repeat with different starting amounts (up to 5) and taking away 1 or 2 tiles. Use fun scenarios: "Let's build a house with 5 tiles. Uh oh, we need 2 tiles for the roof! How many are left for the walls?"

5. Cool-down: Free Build & Count (5 mins)

Let your child build freely with the Magna-Tiles. Occasionally ask counting questions about their creation: "Wow, how many triangle windows does your house have?" or "How many pieces did you use for that tall tower?"

Simple Assessment:

Observe your child's participation. Can they count small sets (1-5)? Do they attempt to combine or count remaining tiles after adding/removing? Encourage effort over perfect accuracy. Ask simple questions related to the activities ("Show me 3 tiles," "What happens if we add one more?").