



NUMBER SENSE · EVERYDAY LANGUAGE
FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

Mathematical Vocabulary Swaps

Number · comparison · measurement · patterns · order

Mathematical language extends beyond spatial words to include number, comparison, measurement, patterns, and order. These concepts can be named during meals, play, shopping, and other familiar routines.

INSTEAD OF	TRY SAYING	EVERYDAY EXAMPLE
<i>“Get some.”</i>	one, two, three; exact quantities	“Bring three spoons.”
<i>“There’s a lot.”</i>	more, fewer	“This bowl has more crackers than that bowl.”
<i>“They’re the same.”</i>	equal, same number	“We each have an equal number of blocks.”
<i>“Give me more.”</i>	one more, two more	“Add one more block to your tower.”
<i>“Take some away.”</i>	one fewer, two fewer	“Take one away. Now there is one fewer.”
<i>“This is bigger.”</i>	taller, longer, heavier, holds more	“This cup holds more water.”
<i>“It’s almost full.”</i>	full, empty, half-full	“The cup is half-full.”
<i>“Break it up.”</i>	halves, equal parts	“Divide the sandwich into two equal parts—two halves.”
<i>“Put these together.”</i>	pair, group, sort	“Make a pair of socks.”
<i>“Put these in order.”</i>	first, second, third, last	“The blue car is second in the line.”
<i>“Do it again.”</i>	repeat, pattern	“Repeat the pattern: red, blue, red, blue.”
<i>“Find another like it.”</i>	same shape, same size, matching	“Find another triangle the same size.”

TRY IT TODAY

Pick one row and use it on purpose during a single routine, like snack time or getting dressed. Once the new word feels natural, add another.