Early Math Activities: Math All Around Us

Mirror Neurons

* Neurons detect complex features like faces, hands or expressive body language.
* *Mirror neurons provide clues to how children learn.*
* Infants a few minutes old will stick out their tongues at adults doing the same thing.
* Children are hard-wired for imitation and learn through observation. This is when the Mirror Neurons fire up.
* As children combine, sort, count, or describe the characteristics of small objects, they are using active, hands-on strategies for problem-solving, exploration, and experimentation, and scaffolding previous knowledge and interactions to learn new information.

Numbers and Operation

* Children should be provided with a numerically rich environment through books, songs, and pictures.
* Providing children with materials with numbers will help with future naming.
* Use math vocabulary when playing or building.
* Counting can be done anywhere with objects, leaves, stones, etc.

Algebraic Concepts

* Children will group objects into sets.
* Young toddlers will engage in experiences related to adding and subtracting (e.g., songs, finger plays, books)

Geometry

* Learners will explore similarities and differences in the shape of objects.
* Offer puzzles, shape sorters, and shape blocks that can be put together and taken apart.
* Sort rocks by size and point and count them for your child.
* Sort leaves by color or size.
* Describe objects by shape and name.

Measurement, Data, and Probability

* The learner will begin to use size words and explore objects to determine size.

* The learner will put similar objects into piles and sort by size and shape.