









Mathematical Scavenger Hunt



green leaf		
window		
big flower		
little flower		
triangle		
dog		

Scavenger hunts are a fun, easy, inexpensive (dare we say, “free?”) experience that provide children a guided way to explore the world around them while learning how to make observations. Scavenger hunts can also get your child moving and give you the opportunity to teach her about your neighborhood or community.



What you will need:

- A list of items to find
- Optional: Phone with a camera

1. Prepare for the hunt.

Create a list of objects, places, people, etc. for your child to identify in the area where you will be playing. Incorporate a variety of mathematical terms with the scavenger hunt items such as “big,” “little,” “one,” “four,” “round,” or “rectangle.”

We recommend you start with five or six objects the first time you play (adjust this based on your child’s age and attention span).

2. Invite your child to join you on a scavenger hunt!

3. Keep focused!

While on the hunt, continue to remind your child which items remain on the list.

4. Say it out loud.

Ask your child to verbally identify what she sees as she finds the items. Encourage her to photograph each item.

5. Do it again!

Scavenger hunts can easily be repeated, while not being boring! Change the scavenger hunt objects, add more objects, or try new locations each time you play.

Examples:

Patterns: flower petals, windows, doors

Shapes: circles, squares, triangles

Sizes: small, medium, large

four bushes

five cars

two people

two dogs

one stop sign

triangle-shaped sign

circles

big trees

tiny pebbles