

# Ordering Numbers

## Targeted skill

Young children develop their number sense as they compare numbers and place them in the correct order.

## Materials

- ◆ 10 index cards
- ◆ pen, pencil, crayon, felt-tip marker, or other writing tool

## What to do

**W**rite the numerals 0 to 9 on index cards, then shuffle them. Spread the cards faceup on the floor or a large table. Then arrange the cards in the correct order. First, choose the 0 card and place it to the left, choose the 1 card and place it to the right of the 0 card, and so forth, until all the cards are in order. Ask your child to read the cards, pointing to each card and saying the number: “Zero, one, two, three,” and so on. Shuffle the cards again and spread them out. This time, ask your child to put the cards in order. After your child has become comfortable with ordering the cards, try giving him or her only a few of the cards, for example, the 3, 4, 6, 7, and 10. Then ask your child to order these.

## Extending the activity

- ❖ After your child can order the cards by starting with 0 and working sequentially, challenge him or her to arrange them in order even if they’re out of sequence. That is, shuffle the cards and stack them in the middle of the playing area. Ask your child to turn over the first card, read it, and place it approximately where it belongs. For example, a 7 card should be placed slightly to the right of center. The 3 card should be placed more to the left of center, allowing room for the 4, 5, and 6 cards to go in between.
- ❖ When your child feels comfortable ordering the cards 0 to 9, begin introducing double-digit numbers up to 20. Repeat the same procedure of having your child put the cards in order many, many times.
- ❖ When your child is confident with putting all the numbers in order, choose only a few and ask your child to order these. Then ask him or her to figure out which numbers are missing.

### What your child is practicing

**I**n this activity, your child simply compares numbers and puts them in the proper order.