

MathLink Cubes (set of 100)

Pattern Links:

Use the MathLink Cubes to introduce the concept of making patterns. Start with a simple ABAB pattern, such as blue, green, blue, green, and snap those 4 cubes together. Ask the child to continue the pattern by snapping additional cubes onto the linked set. Once the ABAB patterns have been mastered, you can try moving on to more complex patterns, such as ABCABC (blue, green, yellow) or even ABCCD (blue, green, yellow, yellow, red).



MathLink Measuring:

MathLink Cubes provide a great way to practice nonstandard measurement around the house. Start with a smaller object, such as a pencil. Ask your child how many MathLink Cubes long they think the pencil is. Snap that number of cubes together and then compare it to the actual length of the pencil. Was their estimate too long or too short? If so, how can they adjust their measuring tool (adding or removing cubes) to make it closer to the pencil's length? Once they get some practice, try some longer objects for an extra challenge, such as a TV, bed, or even a sibling!

Addition and Subtraction:

Start by calling out an addition problem using 2 numbers, each less than or equal to 5, such as "5 + 3." Ask your child to count out one colour of cubes equal to the first number and a different colour for the second number. Have them snap the cubes together in one row, and then count all the cubes to find the sum. For subtraction, reverse the directions and start by connecting 2 different colours of cubes, each less than or equal to 5. Call out a subtraction problem based on the number of cubes connected, such as "9 - 4." Have the child remove the 4 cubes of the one color, and then count the number of remaining cubes for the answer.

Building Fun:

MathLink Cubes make for great building fun. Start by asking your child if they can make different shapes out of several cubes, such as a triangle, square, or rectangle. Move on to other challenges, such as, "How high can you build a tower of MathLink Cubes that will stand on its own?" Have them build the tower, and then measure it using a ruler. You can also try creative challenges, such as, "Build a house out of MathLink Cubes" or "Build an animal out of MathLink Cubes."