



# Math Skills Brush-Up with Kids Academy: Getting Ready for Kindergarten

[www.kidsacademy.mobi](http://www.kidsacademy.mobi)

As your child prepares to enter kindergarten, it's important to remember that there are many things that you can do at home to set them up for success in math. While many skills will be taught explicitly by your child's teacher during the school year, there are important prerequisite skills that will give them a step up to starting kindergarten.

In this article, we're covering all the math skills your child can master to be 100% ready for school. You'll also find links to free learning resources that will help you in preparing your child for kindergarten math.

## 1. Using Number Sense

Number sense refers to the intuitive understanding of what numbers represent and how they relate to one another. Try pointing out quantities of objects and explaining that numbers represent these quantities – for example, if there are three pencils on a table, point out the quantity by counting each pencil (1, 2, 3) and explaining that there are a total of three pencils.

You can also help your child by guiding them to practice counting by 1s up to five, ten, or even twenty! Consider using one or more of these digital resources when practicing:

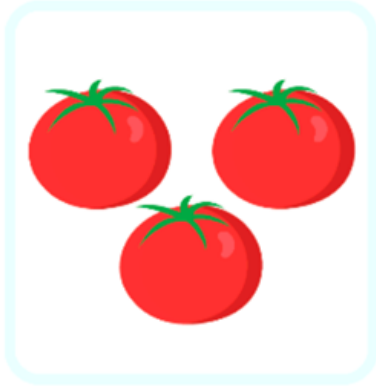
[Quiz: Match Numerals 1-3 to their Quantities](#)



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5



Which group has **3** items?



Confirm

Quiz: Breaking Down 8 and 9

 **1** **2** **3** **4** **5**

 Which pair of hands shows **8** fingers?

**Confirm**

Video: [Count and Match Song](#)

 **v math g1 u1ch14 Count and Match Song APP**  
Kids Academy

# Count and Match Song



Watch on  YouTube

## 2. Comparing Quantities

Once your child is comfortable with counting on by 1s and naming quantities in a set, consider extending their skills to comparing quantities. To prepare for kindergarten math, present your child with two groups of objects. Ask your child to look at the two groups and determine which has less/fewer and which has more.

If your child is comfortable comparing quantities using concrete objects, consider moving to a representational model using pictures rather than actual objects.

Here are some digital resources that will help your child reinforce and practice their comparison skills:

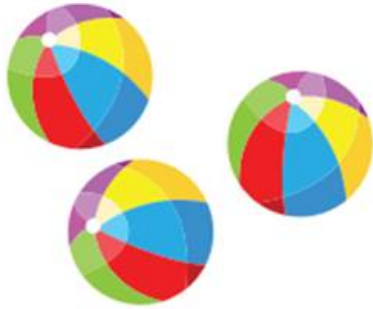
[Video: Let's Compare Numbers](#)



[Worksheet: More or Less?](#)

# More or Less?

In each row circle the group that has more objects in it.

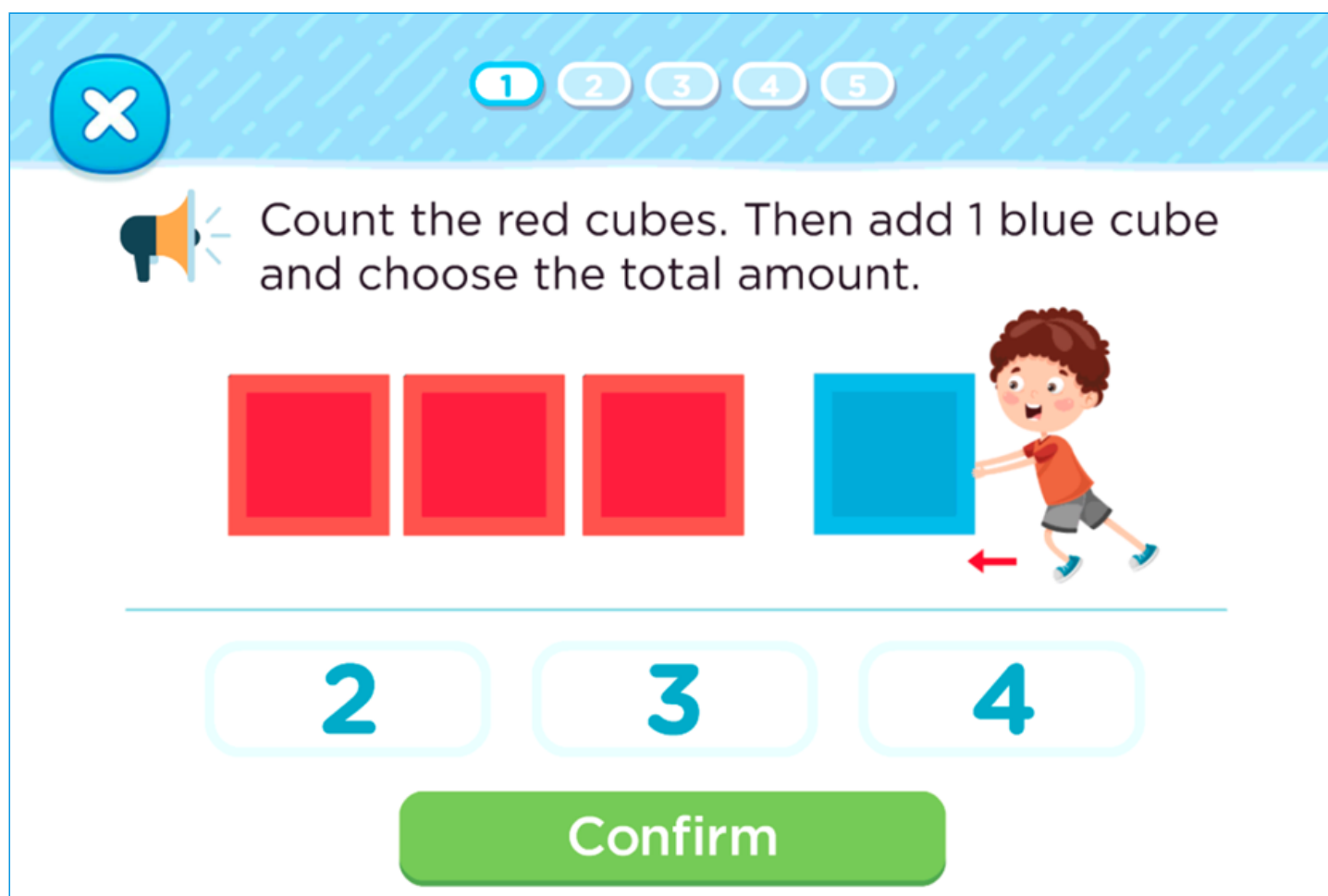


### 3. Adding and Subtracting (Using Concrete Models)

While understanding addition and subtraction is not required for the beginning of kindergarten, you can help your child begin exploring this concept by adding or subtracting 1 to a number. Using manipulatives (concrete objects such as cubes or game markers), create a set (group) and have your child identify the quantity (how many). Next, add one more object and ask for the new total – “What is 1 more than \_\_\_\_\_?” You can repeat the steps by taking one object away – “What is 1 less than \_\_\_\_\_?”

Consider using digital resources below to reinforce and practice skills.

#### Quiz: Adding 1 More with Cubes



The interface features a blue header with a close button (an 'X' in a circle) on the left and five numbered buttons (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) on the right. Below the header, a megaphone icon is followed by the instruction: "Count the red cubes. Then add 1 blue cube and choose the total amount." The main area displays three red cubes and one blue cube. A cartoon boy is shown pushing the blue cube to the left, with a red arrow indicating the direction of movement. Below the cubes, there are three large buttons labeled "2", "3", and "4". At the bottom center is a green "Confirm" button.

#### Quiz: Subtracting 1 Using Cubes



1 2 3 4 5



Count the red cubes. Then take away 1 cube and choose the amount that is left.



5

3

4

Confirm

## 4. Identifying Basic Shapes

Geometry is a branch of math that extends from preschool through high school. Start early with your child by helping him/her/them identify basic shapes, such as circles, squares, triangles and rectangles. Point out the attributes (characteristics) of the shapes that make them similar or different.

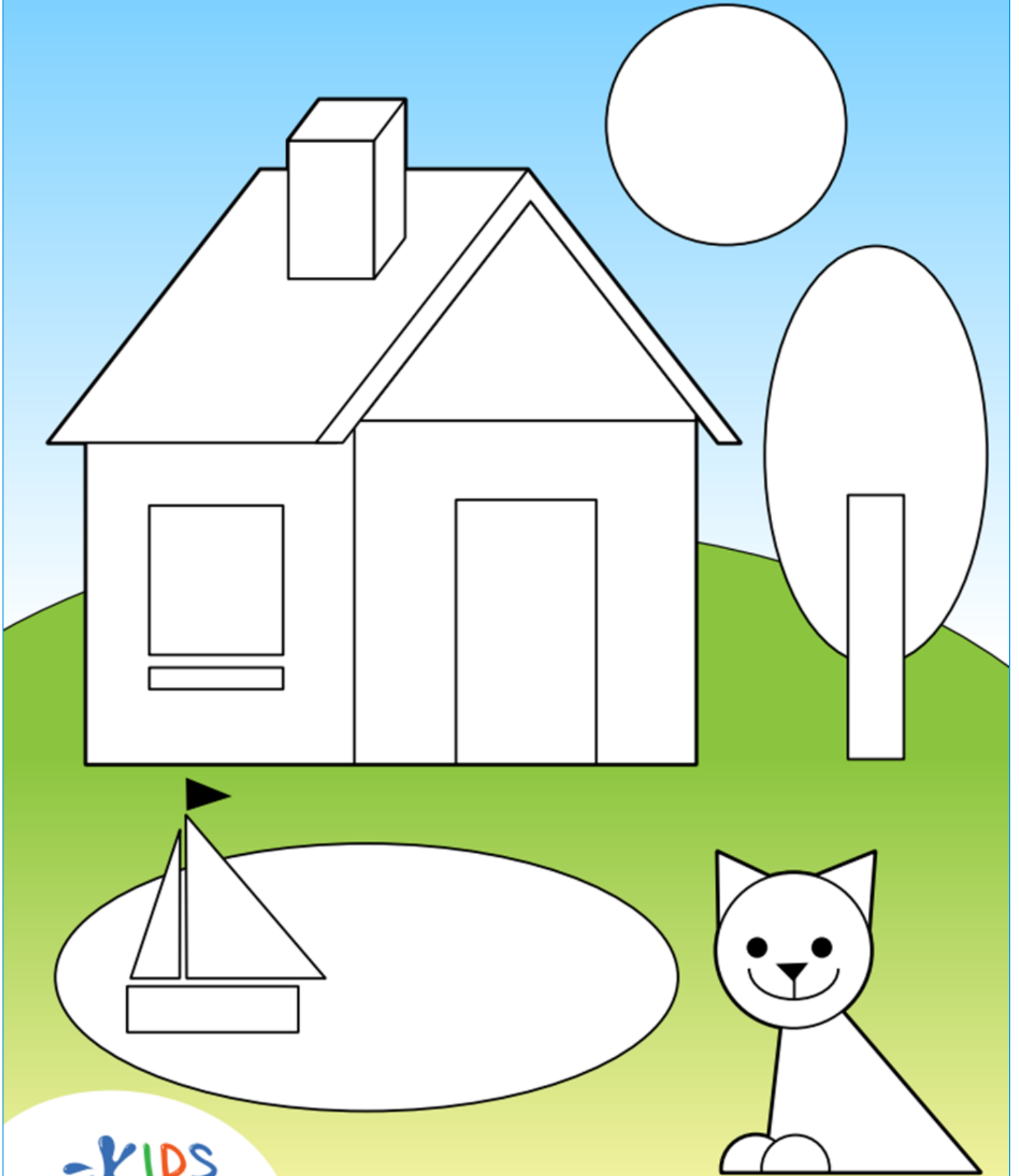
Once your child is able to identify basic shapes upon sight, consider having your child sort them into groups and explain their thinking – what rule was followed to decide on categories?

Consider using Kids Academy's digital resources to reinforce and practice skills.

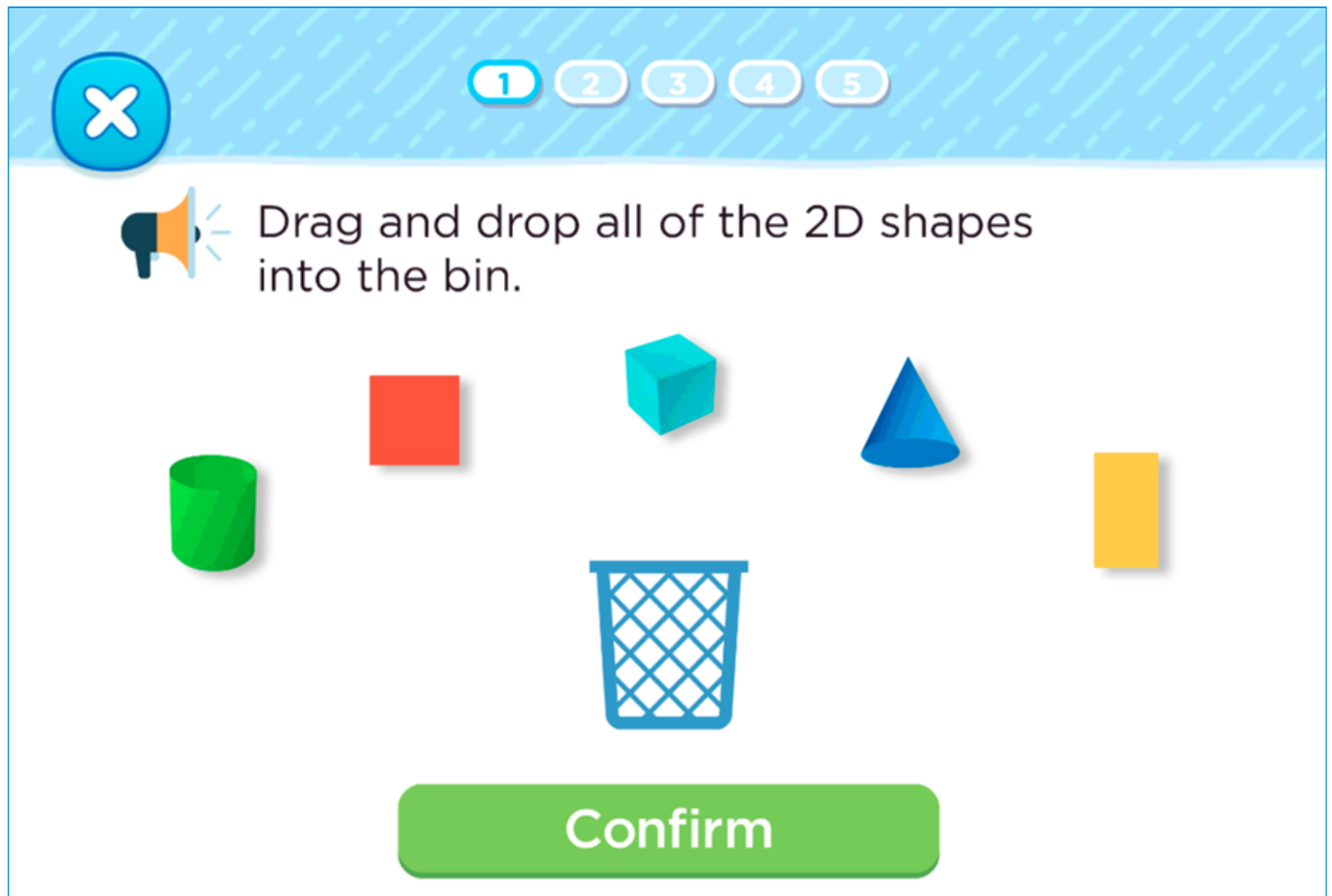
[Worksheet: Color the Shapes!](#)

# Color the Shapes!

Name the shapes you see. Color the picture.



## Quiz: Identify 2D and 3D Shapes



The interface features a blue header with a close button (X) on the left and five numbered buttons (1-5) on the right. Below the header, a megaphone icon is followed by the instruction: "Drag and drop all of the 2D shapes into the bin." The main area contains five shapes: a green cylinder, a red square, a cyan cube, a blue cone, and a yellow rectangle. A blue trash bin icon is positioned centrally below these shapes. At the bottom, there is a green "Confirm" button.

## 5. Recognizing Patterns

Being able to recognize simple patterns in shapes, objects, or colors allows students to recognize a rule and apply it. You could use silverware to create a pattern for your child to identify – for example: knife, fork, knife, fork, knife, fork. Ask your child to identify the part that repeats (knife, fork) and explain that this part is called the core. If your child is able to identify the part that repeats, ask them to continue the pattern – what comes next?

Further challenge your child by providing different patterns or even asking your child to create his/her/their own pattern! Build upon the skill of identifying simple shapes (see above) and use them to create patterns, naming each shape as you go.

Below are some online resources to practice pattern recognition.

[Worksheet: Find the Pattern!](#)





# Find the Pattern!


Look at the pattern. Check the box next to the pattern that is exactly the same.





## Quiz: Identify, Duplicate, and Extend Patterns

1 2 3 4 5

 Which pattern is exactly the same as the pattern on the left?







Confirm

## So... what's the most important skill for kids entering kindergarten?

Beyond learning the mathematical skills above, the best thing you can do for your child entering kindergarten is to encourage the following:

- Be persistent. Math isn't easy, but it's worth it! Remind your child that new skills aren't always going to land the first time they are practiced. Students need to have grit and determination to persevere through challenges.
- Pay attention. You can't learn from others if you aren't listening attentively! Help your child build attention stamina by increasing time spent on activities and listening to your teaching. You are your child's first teacher, and you set the expectation for how they will behave and learn in school!
- Stay positive. Encourage your child to try new things, take risks, and remain committed to learning even when it's tough. Having a positive, open-minded outlook will help your child be successful in kindergarten and beyond!