Math Picture Book Analysis Guide for parents

Use this guide to help you choose math picture books to read with your child. A good math picture book will have all four of the positive qualities.

**POSITIVE**

The illustrations correctly show the math.

![Some monkeys make a square. The four sides are all the same.](image)

Circus Shapes by Stuart J. Murphy

The text correctly shows the math.

![Mom said 2 floors down. Which one do I press?](image)

Elevator Magic by Stuart J. Murphy

**NEGATIVE**

The illustrations incorrectly show the math.

![Since this page is about the number four and there are four seeds, there should also be four flowers.](image)

Ten Black Dots by Donald Crews

The text incorrectly shows the math.

![This story isn’t about counting the animals. Instead, it’s about which animals arrive first, second, third, etc. The cat is not three, the cat is third.](image)

One Was Johnny by Maurice Sendak
POSITIVE

The illustrations match and support the text and the math.

Next to my puppy, my brother is tall.

Next to an Ant by Mara Rockliff

The picture book has vivid images, interesting characters, and an engaging plot that you can connect to your child’s life.

Elephant sat on the down side of the seesaw. Mouse climbed to the very edge of the up side. But nothing happened.

Just a Little Bit by Ann Tompert

NEGATIVE

The illustrations do not match the text and are distracting or confusing.

It says four eggs in the text, but the monkeys say they are getting eight eggs in the illustration. In addition, some monkeys are holding three eggs but saying, “I have 2 eggs!”

One little monkey reads the recipe. “Add four eggs.” Four little monkeys each get some eggs.

Five Little Monkeys Bake a Birthday Cake by Eileen Christelow

The picture book does not have vivid images, interesting characters or an engaging plot that connects to your child’s life.

Although we can learn interesting facts about patterns, there are no characters or actions in this book. Children might find it difficult to see how patterns on this page connect to their own lives.

Patterns by David Kirkby

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