PS – K Ways to work Math into your summer

-Use any small manipulatives that have a number of colors. Have your child sort the items by color. Once they have been sorted, have them count how many of each color there are. And, finally, how many are all together.

-Let your child sort any familiar items at home by size, color, texture or shape. For example, crayons, mail, socks, etc.

-Cut animal pictures from magazines. Classify them by animals that walk, fly, crawl, jump, etc.

-Using similar manipulatives, give your child one color from the group while the parent has another. (For the sake of example, we’ll imagine using small plastic “counting bears.”) Let’s say the parent has the red bears and the child has the green. Place a red bear in front of your child. Ask your child to match (or pair) a green bear next to the red bear. Next, place two or three bears in the line, and ask your child to pair a green bear to each red bear. Continue in this way. The object is to match items from one set to the same number of items from another set.

-Allow your child to set the dinner table. Ask them to first count out and set down the number of placemats needed, then to count out and set down the same number of plates, then forks and so on. Once the table is set, ask them to count how many places there are total. To extend upon this when your child is ready, you can ask questions such as, “How many more would we need to have if grandma came to join us?” “How many would there be at dinner then?” “What if grandma and grandpa both came?” etc.

-Play Chutes and Ladders or Candy Land on raining days.

-A number hunt. This game can be played at home, in the supermarket, etc. As your child to find the number “1” somewhere, then the number “2” and so on. As the child recognizes more and more numerals, give them higher numbers.

-Garden Math: Count the number of tomatoes on a plant in the backyard. Ask your child to pick 3 red ones to use for the salsa you want to make, etc.

Counting:
- count stairs
- count snacks
- set tables and count utensils and plates
- work on one-to-one correspondence while counting groups of objects
- use playing cards

Sorting:
- sort groceries
- sort toys
- sort money (change) by size and color
- sort laundry
- match socks

Patterns:
- natural materials outside
- cereal
- beaded necklaces
- legos
- make patterns with sidewalk chalk

Parts to Whole:
- puzzles
- dividing food up between a group of people

Number Recognition:
- scavenger hunt for numbers while driving in the car
- playing cards (put them in order)
- hide numbers in playroom/sandbox/outside and go on a hunt for them