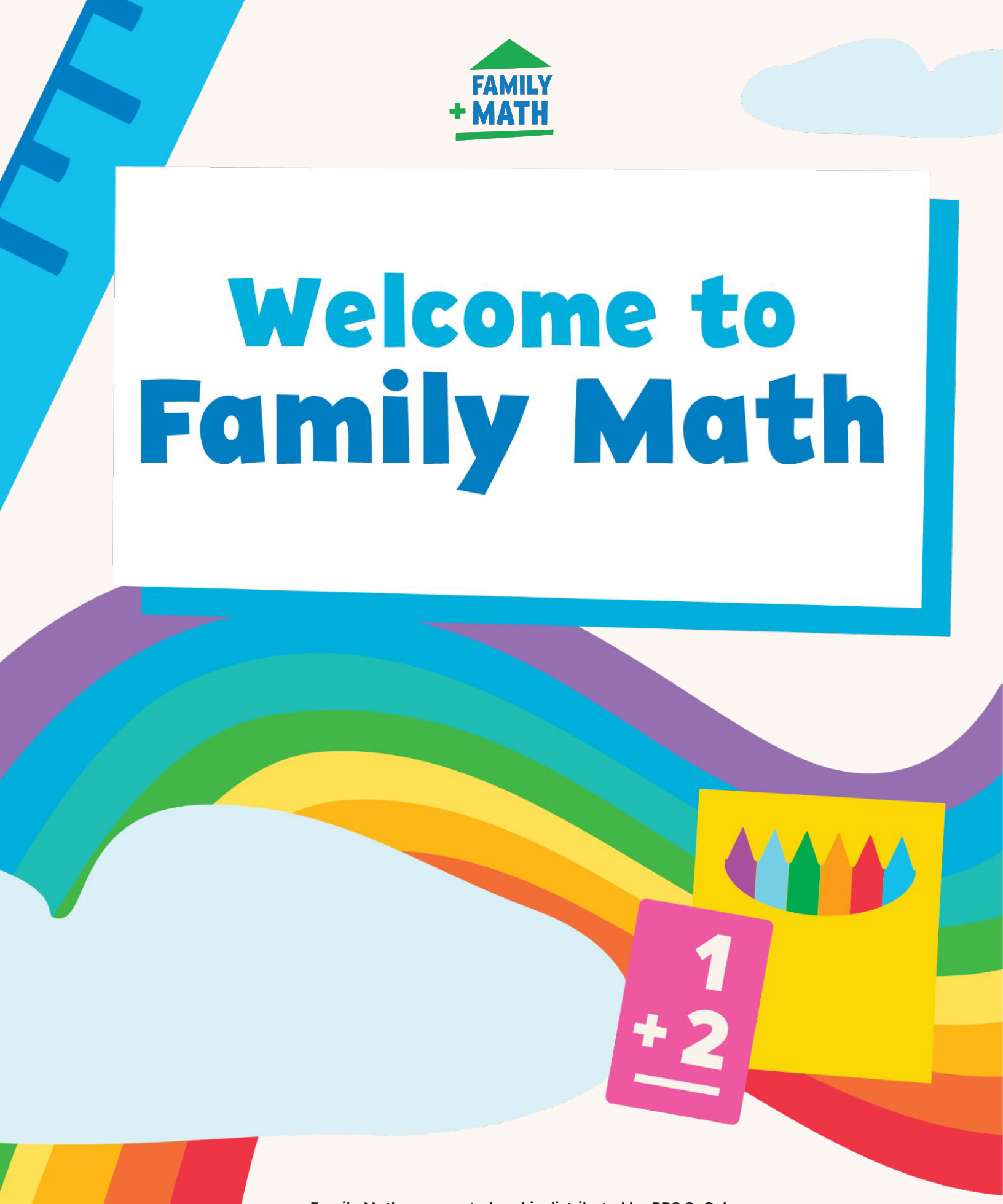
FAMILY + MATH

Welcome to Family Math



Family Math was created and is distributed by PBS SoCal.
For additional information, please contact familymath@pbssocal.org.

Thank you for your partnership in bringing Family Math to your community and families. We created this guide to give you an overview of the program and inspire you to engage in this important work.

Why is early math so important?

Early math development is essential for school readiness and success. Young children exposed to the following early math skills have the foundation to learn school math successfully:



Equally as important, having opportunities to develop foundational math skills can have a positive impact on math beliefs and attitudes.

According to many studies from over the past 12 years, mathematics achievement at school entry was the strongest predictor of later success in mathematics and, in some cases, reading, even when all other characteristics tested were controlled (Duncan et al., 2007; Claessens, Duncan, & Engel, 2009; Claessens & Engel, 2013; Foster, 2010; Watts et al., 2014). And, children from marginalized communities tend to underperform on kindergarten readiness tests—not because of inability, but because of unequal access to opportunity.

That means early math skills predict later academic performance, including in:

Mathematics	Reading abilities	Socioemotional development

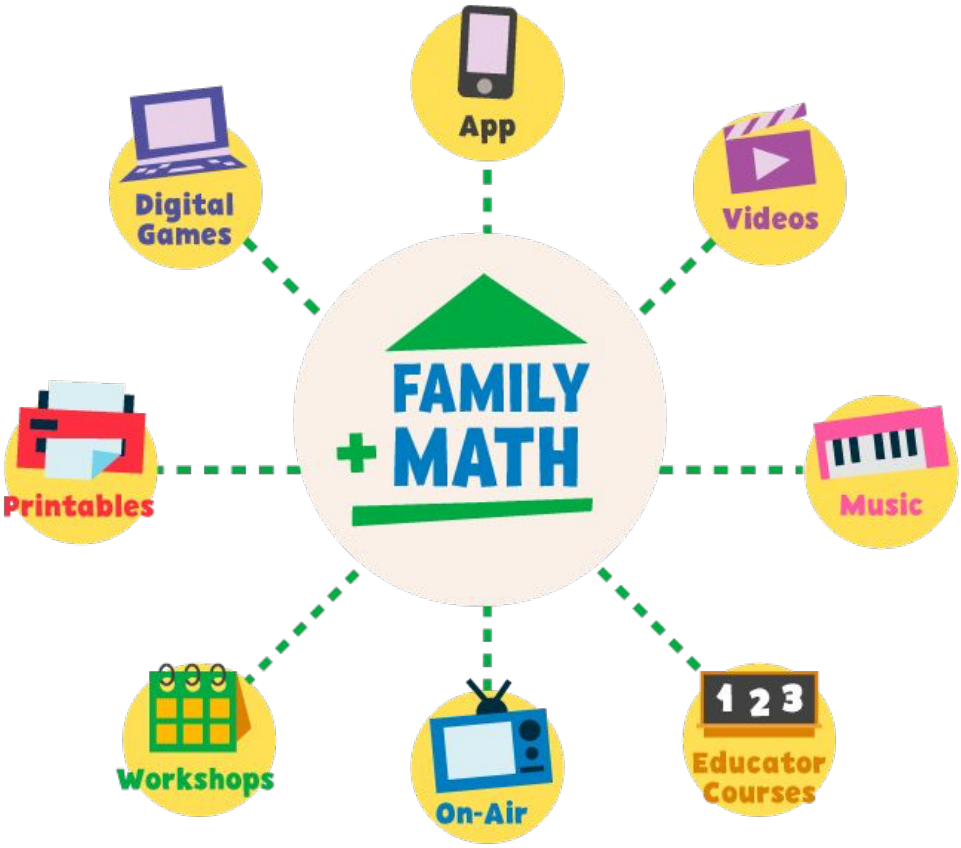
What is Family Math?

Family Math is a research-based, multiplatform, bilingual program, in English and Spanish, that focuses on building math positivity, confidence and knowledge of foundational math skills for families with children ages 2–5. Family Math equips parents and caregivers with strategies and resources to facilitate meaningful math experiences at home through playful learning and hands-on activities.

Family Math enables PBS stations and community-based organizations to partner with parents and caregivers to support children's early math development through play. We emphasize how learning and teaching math can be simple, fun and embedded in everyday contexts. Some families are unsure of where to start, and we aim to help families realize that many of the daily routines and activities they are already doing are the perfect place to introduce early math concepts. We work to build a math community, expand ideas of math and develop informal ways to engage in positive math activities with children.

What are the components of Family Math?

To meet the needs of all families, we provide different experiences and ways to engage in Family Math:



"The beauty of it all is that we are enjoying math, even when it doesn't feel like we are learning… We're just doing it. A lot of times I'm doing it without them even knowing. Math is a part of us now. It is something we do every day." —Family Math Parent

How do we know Family Math works?

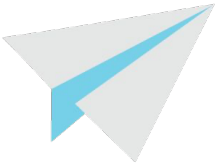
Since the initiative's launch in 2019, Family Math has reached over **88,000 parents, caregivers, children, and educators** through workshops and events. Data collected over the course of four years shows Family Math successfully:



grew caregivers' knowledge of foundational math skills by **12%**



increased caregivers' confidence by **12%**



increased caregivers' math positivity by **9%**

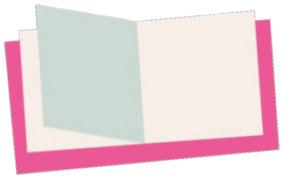
As a result of engaging in Family Math experiences, **families are having more conversations that include math** during everyday activities such as cooking, baking or laundry. Families are also **more likely to create opportunities for their children to learn math at home**.

> ***"For me, the past couple of weeks has made me more intentional in terms of math, especially incorporating it in our daily activities at home. For instance, whenever we make some eggs, I make sure that he counts the eggs and I make sure that the younger one is right next to him to watch. It has made me more intentional."*** **—Family Math Parent**

In 2024, we expanded our evaluation work with the Stanford Center on Early Childhood to launch a national evaluation of Family Math, capturing the initiative's impact on children, families, and educators in California, Arizona, and Alabama. The results of that study demonstrated that:

- Both parent/caregiver and educator/provider participants across all three sites reported **significant increases in all three core metrics of Family Math**: math positivity, math confidence, and knowledge of children's foundational math skills.
- Participants noticed **improvements in their children's math skills**, especially in number sense and counting, after participating in a workshop series.
- Workshop facilitators reported a **strong desire for their stations to continue offering Family Math**.

CLICK HERE or scan the QR code to read the full report.



For more information on *Family Math*'s impact, including the program's theory of impact model and evaluation reports, **CLICK HERE or scan the QR code.**

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