Better Parenting

Busy Delivery Trucks

Load and deliver two groups of cargo, then discover what addition means.

Helps Your Child Grow



Operations and Algebraic Thinking

Loading two groups of cargo into the truck one piece at a time and then counting the total helps your child connect addition with putting quantities together.



Attending and Understanding

Listening to the customers' requests and responding with words and actions gives your child practice using spoken information during pretend play.

Steps

- Gather small pom-poms in several colors as pretend gems, a few toy customers, colored pencils, and paper.
- Draw two small rectangles at the top of the paper as loading stations and one large rectangle below as the truck. Connect each station to the truck with a line for a track.
- Explain that your child will fill each customer's order, load the gems, and count the total.
- Use a toy to place an order. For example, write a red 2 at one station and a yellow 3 at the other, then say, "I'd like two red gems and three yellow gems."
- Invite your child to place the requested color and quantity at each station, then move the gems one by one into the truck.
- Count the full load together: "Two red gems plus three yellow gems makes five gems altogether."

Tips

- If you do not have small pom-poms, use other objects as cargo, such as building bricks, small toy pieces, or bottle caps.
- After the toy customer receives the order, count the gems together. If the amount is wrong, add a pretend return and reload the truck.

Observations

- ○ Counts each color of gems and then counts the combined total
- ○ Answers "How many are there altogether?"