Better Parenting

Number Racetrack

Draw a racetrack, drive a toy car, and discover how marks can stand for something.

Helps Your Child Grow

Emergent Literacy

Using lines and circles to stand for a racetrack helps your baby begin to understand that a mark can represent something in the world.

Steps

- Gather a large sheet of paper, thick markers, and a toy car. Let the car drive around, then say, “The car needs a track. Let’s draw one.”
- Draw an oval and narrate, “This is Track 1,” adding the numeral 1 beside or inside it.
- Drive the car around the line with a “beep-beep”: “The car is driving on Track 1.”
- Offer the marker and invite your baby to make a line or circle. Give the mark a purpose: “Your circle is Track 2.”
- Drive the car along your baby’s new track and say, “Look how fast the car goes on your road.”

Tips

- If your child scribbles freely, you can say, ‘That’s a new racetrack!’ This helps them see that their drawing can stand for something.
- You can also add a house, a traffic light, or other familiar objects so your child can explore how drawings represent things.

Observations

- ○ Uses a drawing tool to draw a pretend racetrack
- ○ Drives a toy car on the drawing after hearing the word “racetrack”