

Chicago Public Schools  
Office of Early Childhood Education

Welcome to  
Virtual Pre-K!

Ready for Math Tutorial



# What is VPK Math?

**VPK Math** is a home-school resource that helps connect classroom learning with simple math activities families can do to reinforce learning at home.



**In the Classroom: Name Graph**



**At Home: Number Cards**

**VPK Math** was developed in partnership with PBS and funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Ready to Learn grant.

# What is VPK Math?

VPK Math was created by a talented team of CPS early childhood teachers, all graduates of the Erikson Early Math Project.

## VPK Math Development Team:

**Cecelia Blue-Ford , Kellman School**

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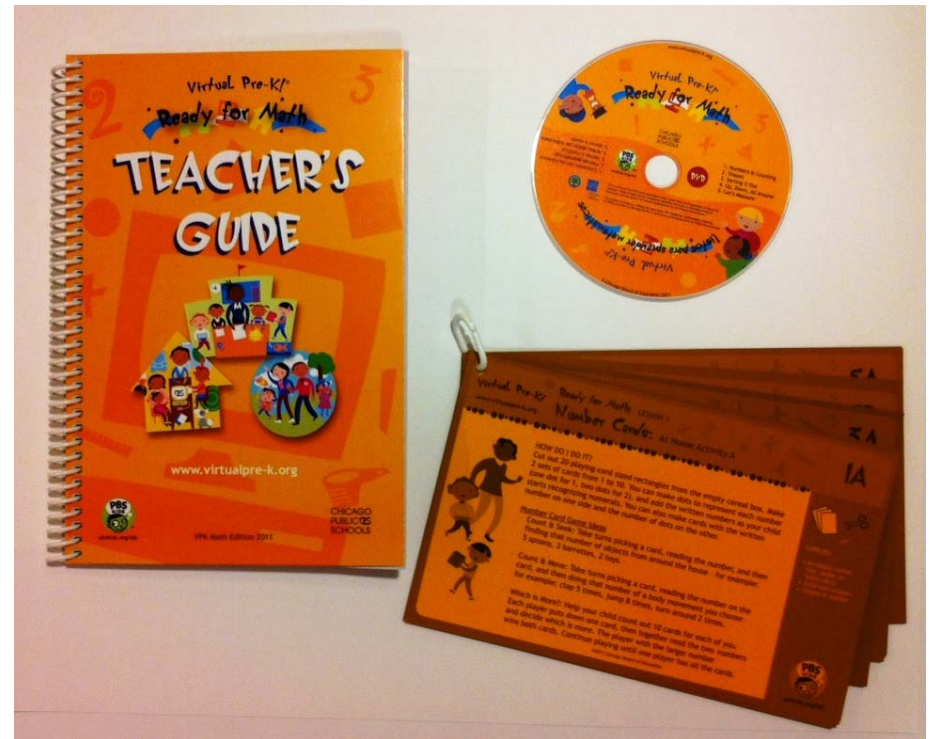
**Rosalie Mancera, Galileo School**

**Xiomara Sanchez, Darwin School**

# What is VPK Math?

## The VPK Math Resource includes:

- A Teacher's Guide with classroom lesson plans, master copies of the home activity cards, and ideas for implementation
- A set of the 10 laminated home activity cards
- A bilingual DVD with video modeling of classroom, home and community activities



# What is VPK Math?

There are 5 themes in VPK Math.

Each theme:

- Targets a critical early math skill.
- Includes a classroom activity, two related home activities and a community connection.
- Has a 5-7 minute video lesson to demonstrate the activities.



# VPK Math: At a Glance

LESSON	1	2	3	4	5
<b>THEME</b>	<b>Numbers &amp; Counting</b>	<b>Shapes</b>	<b>Sorting it Out</b>	<b>Up, Down, All Around</b>	<b>Let's Measure</b>
<b>IN THE CLASSROOM</b>	Name Towers	Shape Hunt	Shoe Sorting	Classroom Obstacle Course	Build Me A House
<b>AT HOME - A</b>	Number Cards	Play Dough Shapes	Home Collections	Treasure Map	Family Feet
<b>AT HOME - B</b>	Counting Around the House	What's in the Bag?	Sorting at Home	Up, Down, All Around Games	Fill it Up!
<b>OUT &amp; ABOUT</b>	Finding numbers and counting out & about	Looking for shapes in the environment	Museum Collections	Playground Obstacle Course	Comparing size, length, height of things you see out & about

# What is VPK Math?

The new math resources will fit into the blue Virtual Pre-K Kit in your classroom, to add to your lending library.



# How do teachers use VPK Math?

There are five creative lesson plans with simple, fun math activities to try in your classroom.



**Classroom example: Classroom Obstacle Course**

# How do teachers use VPK Math?

## Each lesson plan includes:

- Alignment to Illinois Early Learning Standards and Head Start Domains
- Lesson objectives
- Literature suggestions
- Step-by-step instructions

The image shows a page from a lesson plan titled "In the Classroom: Obstacle Course". At the top, it says "Lesson Plan for Teachers" and "For Lesson 4: Up, Down, All Around". The page is decorated with geometric shapes like stars, triangles, and circles. The main content is organized into several sections: Overview, Illinois Early Learning Standards, Headstart Domains, Lesson Objectives, and Literature Suggestions. The text is clear and easy to read, with bullet points for the objectives and a list of book titles for the literature suggestions.

Lesson Plan for Teachers For Lesson 4: Up, Down, All Around

### In the Classroom: Obstacle Course

**OVERVIEW:**  
This large and small group activity builds an increasing understanding of spatial sense through the use of location and position words. Students will be invited to move through an obstacle course created by the teacher. Later the students can create their own obstacle courses in the block area.

**ILLINOIS EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS:**  
4.B.EC: Communicate needs, ideas, and thoughts.  
5.C.EC: Communicate information with others.  
9.B.EC: Find and name locations with simple words such as "near."  
17.A.ECa: Locate objects and places in familiar environments.  
19.A.ECa: Engage in active play using gross motor skills.  
19.A.ECb: Engage in active play using fine motor skills.  
31.A.ECd: Show some initiative and independence in action.

**HEADSTART DOMAINS:**  
LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT: Listening and Understanding; Speaking and Communicating  
LITERACY: Book Knowledge and Appreciation  
MATHEMATICS: Geometry and Spatial Sense  
SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Self-Concept, Self-Regulation and Cooperation  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT: Expressive English Language  
PHYSICAL HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT: Gross Motor Skills and Fine Motor Skills

**LESSON OBJECTIVES:**  
Students will:  
• participate during the reading of a story by repeating familiar phrases.  
• use location/position words while going through the obstacle course  
• and while creating an obstacle course in the block area.  
• use gross and fine motor skills while creating and walking through an obstacle course.  
• cooperate and work constructively in a small group to build an obstacle course using materials in the block area.

**LITERATURE SUGGESTIONS:**  
*We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen  
*Rosie's Walk* by Pat Hutchins  
*The Three Billy Goats Gruff* retold by Paul Caudon  
*Secret Birthday Message* by Eric Carle  
*As The Crow Flies: A First Book of Maps* by Gail Hartman

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# How do parents use VPK Math?

Send home the related At Home activity and you're giving parents an easy way to extend learning at home.



Virtual Pro-Ky  
www.virtualpre-k.org

Ready for Math! LESSON 4  
**Treasure Map: At Home Activity A**

4A

**HOW DO I DO IT?**  
Invite your child to play a hide-and-seek game with a "treasure" of your choosing. Draw a simple map of a room in your house as if you were looking down from the ceiling. Include 2 or 3 important objects in the room that will help guide your child, such as a table, bed, door, or closet. Then hide the "treasure" somewhere in the room. Mark the spot on the map where the treasure is hidden, and ask your child to use the map to find it. As your child looks for the treasure, give him/her clues by using position words. For example: "the treasure is next to the chair," or "between the pillows," or "under the table." When it is your child's turn to hide the treasure, show him/her how to mark its location on the map so you can find it.

**TIP FROM THE TEACHER**  
Understanding even simple maps can be challenging for a young child. You may first want to try this activity by hiding your treasure and giving hints with only your words. For example: "It's under something big and red that we sit on to watch TV." or "It's behind a door." Once your child is familiar with the game and the position words you are using, you can then introduce the map.

**SUPPLIES:**  
• paper  
• pencil or pen  
• "treasure"  
• If possible, a small toy, stuffed animal, a favorite piece, or unbreakable snack (cracker)

**PBS KIDS**  
pbskids.org/4a

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# How can you encourage parent engagement with VPK?

Host a Virtual Pre-K parent workshop.



Show a video lesson and provide parents with hands on materials to try the At Home activity themselves.

# Sample Parent Workshop Agenda

Time: 1 hour

- Welcome and introductions
- Watch one VPK Math video lesson
- Have supplies to try the hands on activity
- Discuss ways to keep the activity open-ended and child-centered
- Provide a copy of the At Home activity card to each parent.

# How can you encourage parent engagement with VPK?

Create a space at school to display completed At Home activities.



# Take Home Packets: Coming in Early March

- The spring VPK Take Home Packet features the At Home Activity: Treasure Map.
- Send home the packet with your students and ask them to bring in their treasure maps to share with the class.
- Collect the enclosed parent survey and mailrun to VPK to be entered into the year end raffle.



# Technology Connections

As part of the Ready to Learn Initiative, PBS has developed a series of educational online games highlighting early math skills for preschoolers.



Both teachers and parents can access these FREE games at [PBSKIDS.org/lab](https://www.pbskids.org/lab)



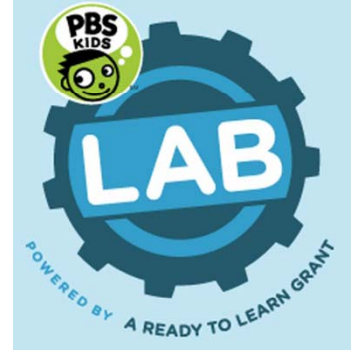
**PBSKIDS.org/lab**

# WHAT IS PBS KIDS LAB?

[pbskids.org/lab](http://pbskids.org/lab)

## PBSKIDS LAB is a website created to:

- Debut **new games**.
- Show **early research results**.
- Share the promise of many **new technologies** as a way to engage children and help them learn.
- Give parents, caregivers, and educators an **inside look** at our process and access to how stories and games are created.





**Ready for Math**

**QUESTIONS? We're here to help.**

**Call us at 773-553-2002.**