



The Education Center®

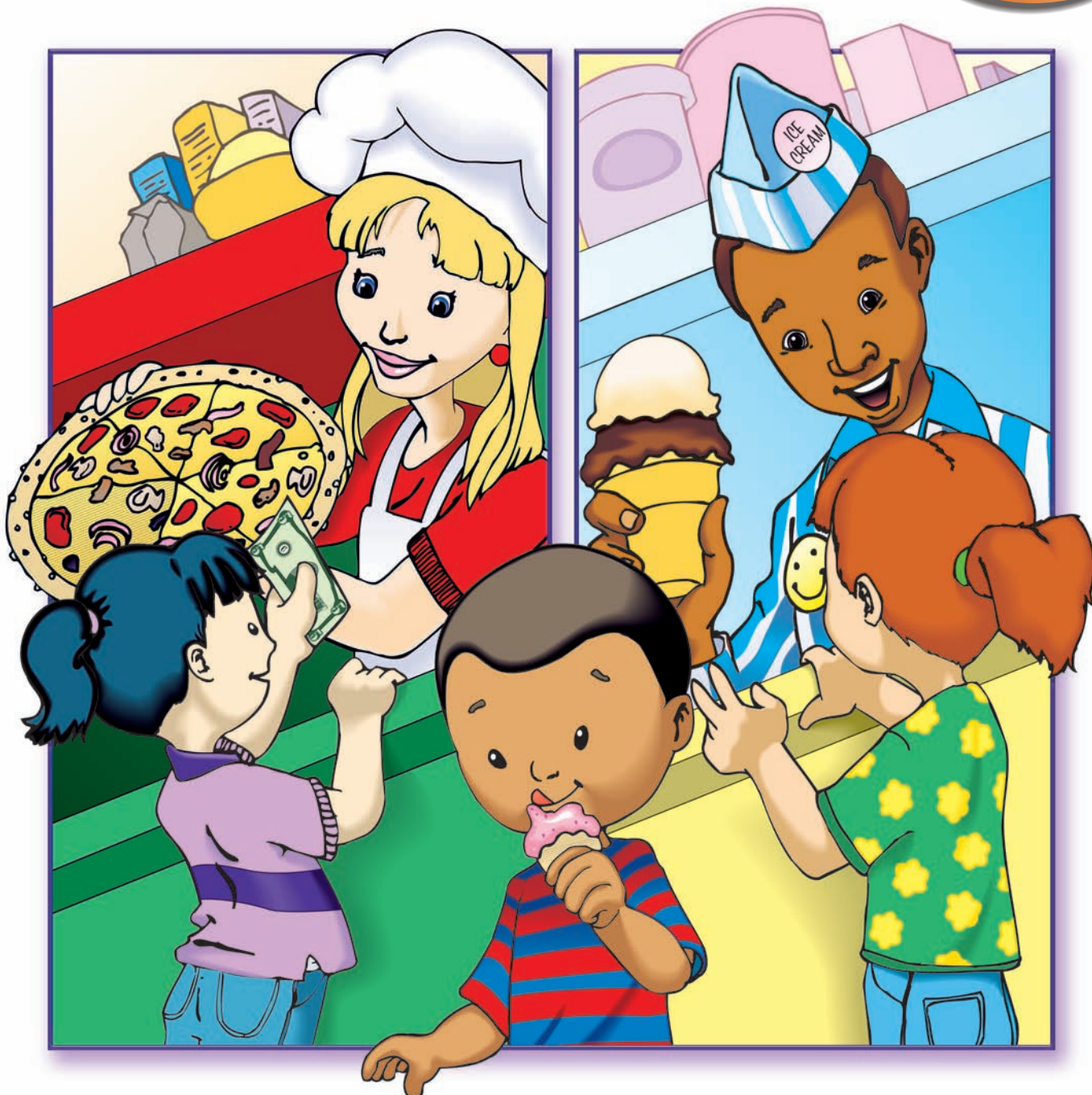
From Your Friends at **The MAILBOX®**

**Preschool-  
Kindergarten**

TEC3079

# Out & About Math

**Hands-On Activities That Connect  
Math Skills With Real-Life Applications**

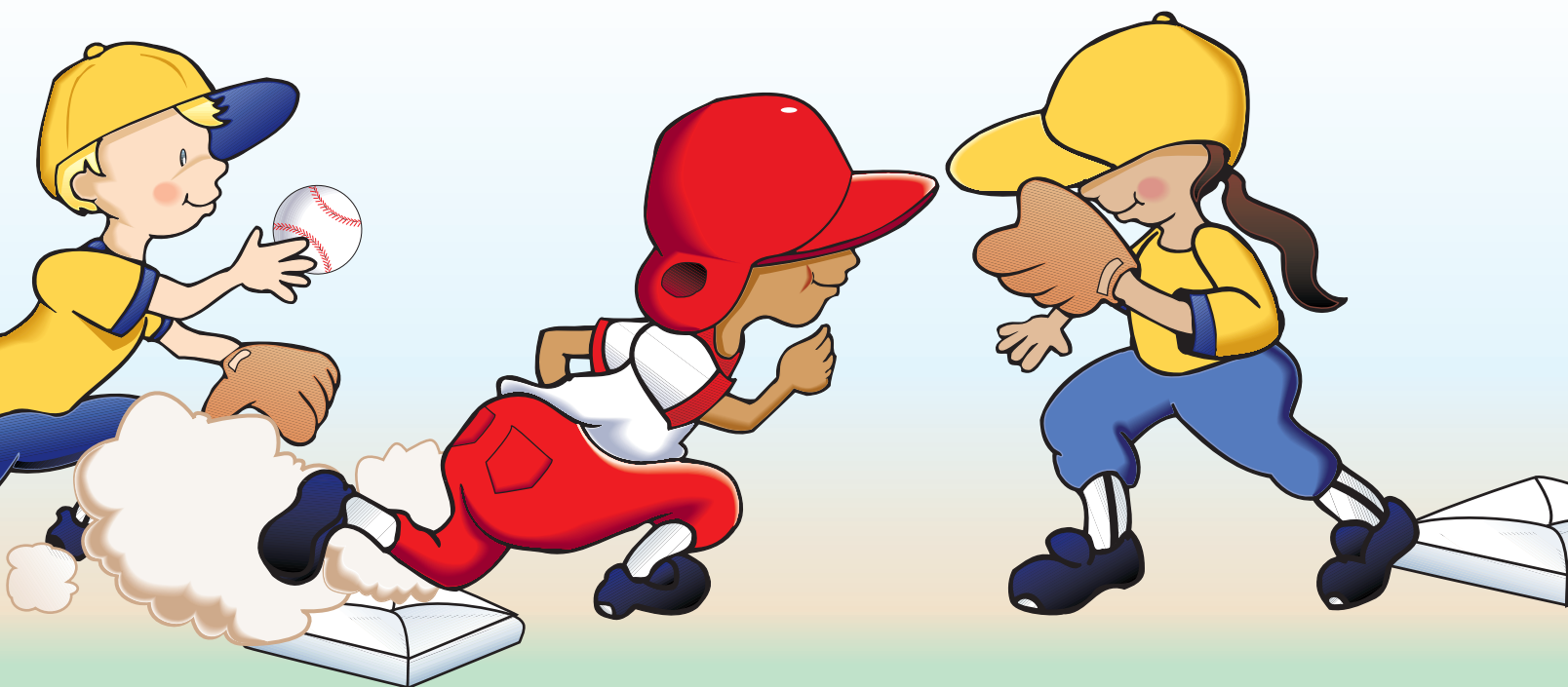


- **Develops problem-solving skills**
- **Helps students think mathematically**
- **Makes math meaningful & fun**

# About This Book

*Out & About Math* is the perfect resource to help your students make the connection between the math skills they learn in the classroom and their real-life applications. Packed with loads of thematic fun, each activity helps teach national math standards in a developmentally appropriate way.

*Out & About Math* contains nine curriculum-based teaching units. Each unit features a different real-life location, such as the playground, the grocery store, or the ice-cream shop. To bring the feel of the featured location into the classroom, most units begin with directions for setting up a center area that replicates the location. The various hands-on activities can then be completed by students visiting the center. The activities within each unit are designed to “pull out” the math that would naturally occur in the featured location. Specific skills are listed at the beginning of each activity, so you’ll quickly know which skills are being reinforced. Each unit contains student reproducibles and/or pattern pages used in conjunction with the activities. The *Out & About Math* activities are designed to encourage your students to use higher-level thinking and problem-solving skills with real-life applications.



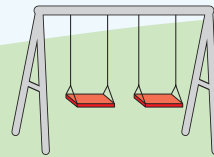
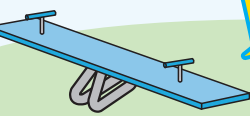
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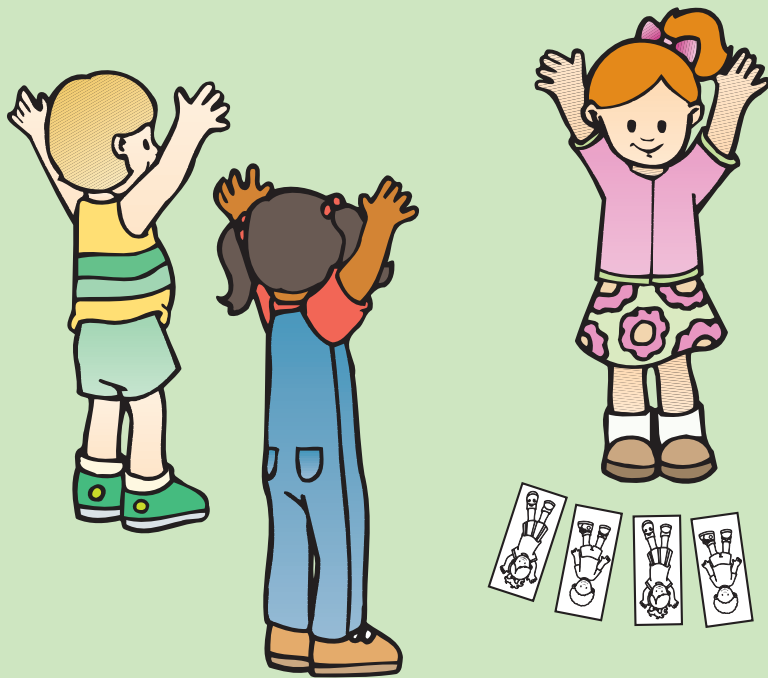




# Out & About at the Playground



These math activities are perfect for any playground environment, whether it's a paved schoolyard, an indoor gym, a rural field, or a modern park with the latest equipment. Pick and choose from what's available to you and adapt these ideas as desired. Then take your class out to play. It's time for math! All set? Let's go!



## Copy Me

**Skill:** copying and extending patterns


Here's a pleasing pattern game for the playground or indoors! To prepare, duplicate the pattern cards (page 11) onto tagboard to make a supply. Cut the cards apart; then laminate them for durability if desired. Gather students and show them a simple pattern made from the cards. Demonstrate the pattern; then repeat with students copying your movements.

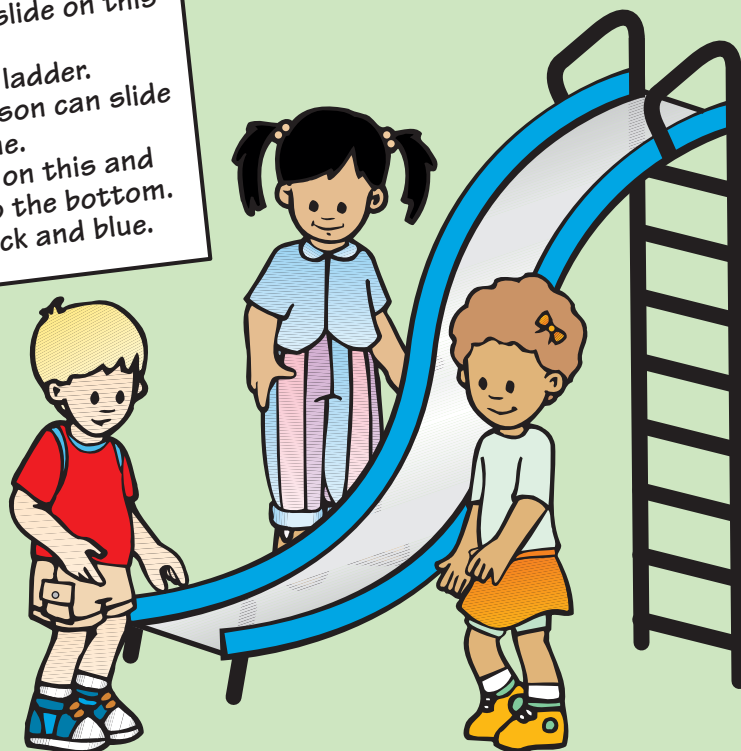
When youngsters have the hang of it, encourage them to continue the pattern after the cards run out. Invite a volunteer to create a pattern for the rest of the group to copy. Continue in this manner until all interested volunteers have had a turn. To vary this activity, take students to the playground and have them find patterns in their play, such as swings moving back and forth and sliders moving up and down.

## Sort It Out

**Skill:** sorting by attributes

Here's a sorting activity that combines attributes with playground fun. Gather a chart tablet and marker; then take your students to the playground. Slowly give clues that describe a particular piece of equipment or an activity on your playground, such as "You can slide on this piece." Have students think of the activity as it's described. Then encourage each child to go to the activity described when she knows the answer. Continue to describe the activity until it's apparent to all students. Discuss and record the name of the activity and the clues that made it clear to the majority of students. For more challenge, describe the equipment or activities with more difficult attributes, such as color, shape, or material.

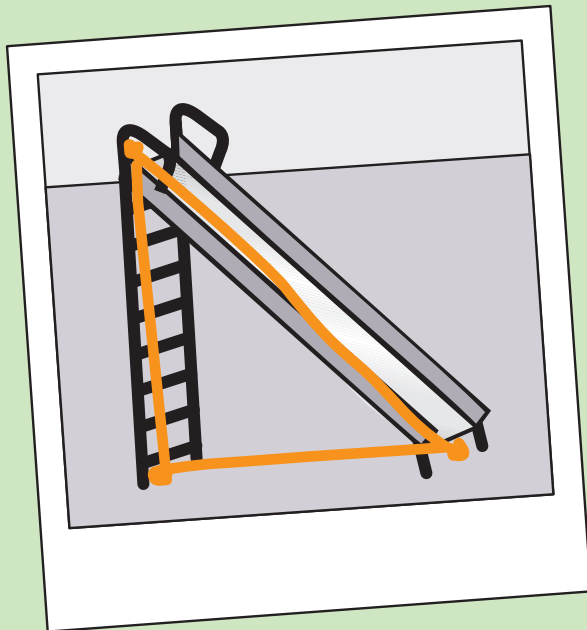
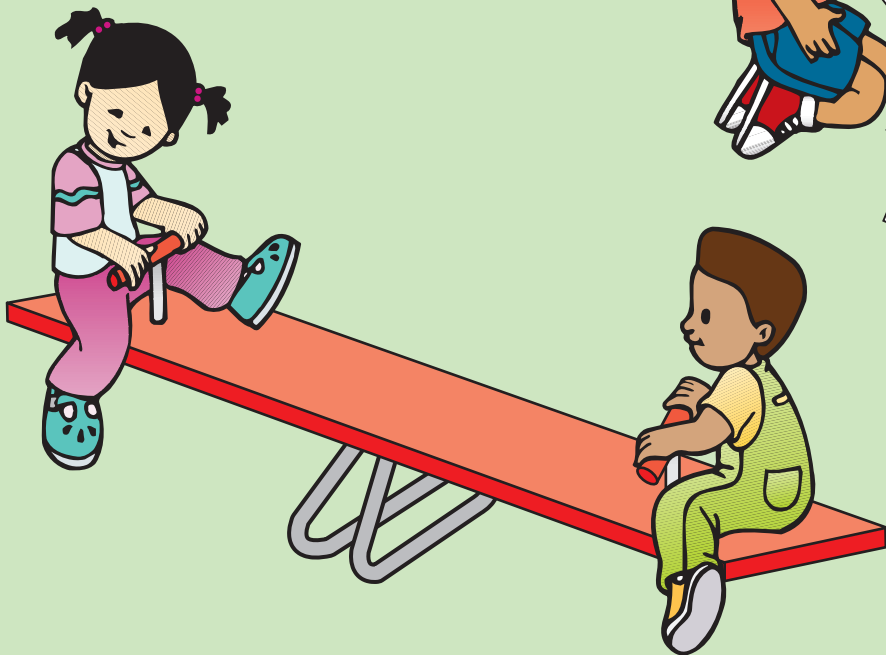
Slide   
- You can slide on this piece.  
- It has a ladder.  
- One person can slide at a time.  
- You sit on this and slide to the bottom.  
- It's black and blue.



## Playground Photo Math

**Skills:** counting, sorting, comparing amounts

Picture the math possibilities in this activity! Take photos of your youngsters playing on the playground. Be sure to capture varying numbers of students in the photos. Include one photo of a piece of equipment with no children. If desired, mount the photos on index cards and laminate them for durability. During a small-group time, encourage students to count and compare the number of children pictured in each photo. Invite students to sort the pictures by number of children and use the phrases *more*, *equal*, and *fewer than* to describe them.



## Picture-Perfect Shapes

**Skills:** identifying shapes, sorting

Don't put away that camera yet! Use it to capture some playground shapes for ongoing learning. Obtain a supply of brightly colored sticky dots. Take youngsters to the playground and show them how to find a shape in the environment, such as a triangle in the slide. Demonstrate marking the shape with sticky dots. Next, divide your class into small groups and give each group a set of dots. Send each group to a different area of the playground to search for and mark shapes. Circulate among the groups confirming and photographing the found shapes. Gather students and have each group share the shapes it found. Later, photocopy sets of the pictures using a marker to enlarge the dots as needed and store them in a center. Encourage students in this center to use a crayon to trace the marked shapes on a copy.

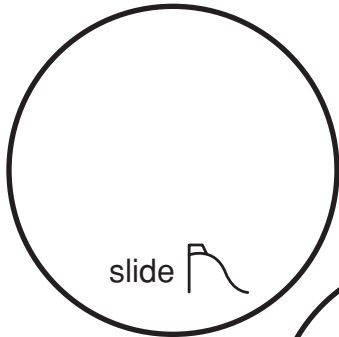

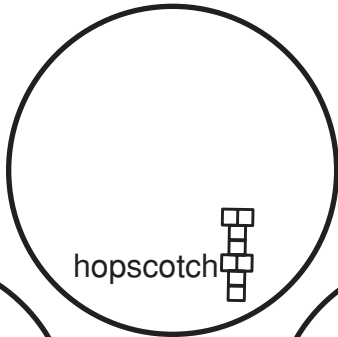

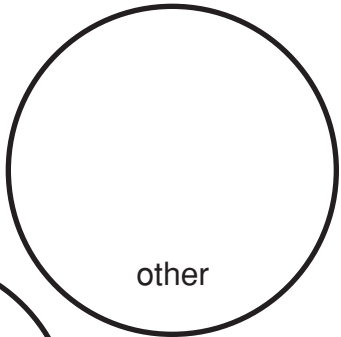
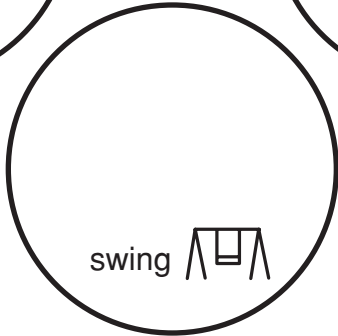



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Playground  
Gathering information, graphing

## Playground Picks

Ask each family member what his or her favorite playground activity is.

 Make a tally in the circle that matches it below.

 slide 	 hopscotch 	 other
 swing 	 sandbox 	

 Color one graph box for each tally mark.

### My Family Likes to Play!

5					
4					
3					
2					
1					
	slide	swing	hopscotch	sandbox	other

**Type of Activity**

What is the favorite playground activity? \_\_\_\_\_