



# MathStart®

**The Greatest Gymnast of All**

**Opposites**

**Level 1 Ages 3+**

## Activity Ideas

### Recognizing opposites helps children develop the spatial sense necessary for the development of geometry concepts.

There is simply no stopping "Zipping, Zooming Zoe," who just happens to be the "Greatest Gymnast of All." She's up, then down, on the mat, then off, over the hoop, then under. Illustrated by Cynthia Jabar.

**DC Standard 4.4, Geometry and Spatial Sense:** Children will begin to demonstrate an understanding of shape, size, position, direction, and movement, and they will describe and classify real objects by shape. (4.4.5) Describe, name, and interpret position in space; understand and use

- As you read the story together, ask the children about Zoe's positions. For example, "Where is Zoe?" "Is Zoe ON the mat or OFF the mat?" "Is Zoe OVER the hoop, UNDER the hoop, or INSIDE the hoop?"
- Introduce the concept of opposites. Explain that "near" (up close) and "far" (way, way in the distance) is an example of a pair of opposites. Then ask, "If I say big, what is the opposite?" "If I say wide, what is the opposite?" "If I say over, what is the opposite?" "Can you think of some more pairs of opposites?"
- Play the Opposite Game when the children are on the playground. Ask them, "Where's the top of the slide? Where's the bottom?" "Who is running fast? Who is walking slow?" "What is the tallest object on the playground?" (It might be a tree!) "What is the shortest object on the playground? (It might be a blade of grass!)"

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