**Teaching Math Through Games: Professional Development Module**
**Transcript for Slide 4 – Areas of Math**

Narrator: When do children begin learning about math? You might think it's something they only start to do in kindergarten or first grade, but research tells us even babies have an ability to learn math and get excited about it. We know preschoolers are ready and eager to learn more about math, but what specific skills are most important for them to learn as they get ready for kindergarten? There are five key areas of math that preschoolers are learning about - Numeracy, Operations, Classification and Patterning, Measurement, Geometry. Let's focus on two of these areas and a few of the skills related to each. Numeracy is the ability to understand and work with numbers. In preschool, children are working on several Numeracy skills, including Counting, Cardinality, and Recognizing Numerals. Counting is saying how many objects are in a group. A teacher might demonstrate Counting by saying, "One, two, three." Cardinality is a measure of the number of objects in a group. For preschoolers, this means that they learn when counting a set of objects, the final number counted tells you how many there are all together. We might say, "One, two, three. There are three apples." Recognizing Numerals means that a child first understands that a written number represents a quantity and eventually they can connect a numeral, like three, to the quantity it represents. They may match the written number three to a group of three apples. Just like preschoolers are learning their A, B, Cs and what those symbols represent, they're learning the meaning of our number system as well. A second key area is Operations. Operations are simply mathematical processes. Preschoolers are ready to learn basic skills and concepts related to Addition and Subtraction. Although they shouldn't be using formal symbols during preschool, children should be learning how to join sets together (which is addition), and separate sets into parts (which is subtraction) – using manipulatives and fingers to represent objects. Math is all around us and children are naturally interested in math. They count the number of friends in the center or how many crackers each person gets at snack, but they need you in order to learn these math skills. And you can support them by intentionally giving them opportunities to practice math in formal instruction, during informal learning moments throughout the day, and by playing games.