



Helping Your Child With Maths At Home



Maths opportunities are all around you. We want children to be positive and enthusiastic about maths and understand how important it is in everyday life, so the more you can build these sorts of activities into your daily routine, the better!

~ Practise basic skills. It is essential that children can recall number bonds and times tables rapidly, so keep working on them as often as possible. There are some really great songs for the children to help with these skills on Youtube – some are in the tune to familiar pop songs.

~ Ask questions! How many books can we fit on this shelf? What about if we stack them differently? Is the temperature today colder or warmer than yesterday? By how much? Which of these is heavier/longer? and so on. Ask them to explain how they know this too.

~ Play games: dominoes, dice, cards, board games. These help with basic number awareness and counting (moving on or back), handling of money (eg. Monopoly), the concept of chance (eg. how likely are you to throw a 6, or to collect all the Kings?) Games like 'Countdown' help children develop their mental maths skills and can be adapted to suit your child's ability. Other games are not number based but may help your child with other maths concepts, eg. Battleships is great for helping children understand coordinates. Online games are also a great way of getting children to practise skills in a fun way.

~ Shopping: help your child to recognise coins and notes. Ask them to read prices and work out how much money is needed when buying. Ask: how much change will we get? How many of these can we buy with the money we have? How much more money would we need to buy...? Which of these special offers is the best value? Show them how you budget, save money, pay bills and make choices about what you can afford to spend money on.

~ Telling the time: have a variety of clocks and watches around the home – ensure children see both analogue and digital clocks, including 24 hour ones. Ask your child to help read timetables. Ask: how long is it until...? How long is it since...? If we need to be there at 4 o'clock, when should we leave? Help your child to use calendars and diaries.

~ Cooking: let your child help you when measuring out ingredients: reading scales and using jugs or measuring spoons, and estimating quantities where an exact measure is not necessary. Ask them to read temperatures and work out timings. Discuss ratio and proportion, eg. What should we do with a recipe that serves 4 if there are 6 of us to feed?

~ Shapes: discuss the shape of everyday objects. Include 2D (flat) shapes like squares, circles and hexagons, and 3D (solid) shapes like cuboids, spheres, cylinders and prisms. Talk with your child about the properties of the shapes, sort them into groups, find different examples. Look out for examples of symmetry and pattern.