

Supporting your child with Maths

The following ideas can be used to support your child to develop their skills in Maths.

- Look for numbers in the environment such as house numbers, prices in the supermarket, times on a digital watch so your child understand the importance of numbers.
- Look for 2D and 3D shapes in the environment, and why they occur. For example why is most packaging cuboid? What shape are most windows? Additionally discuss the features of these shapes such as how many corners or edges they have.
- Recite the days and months; can they tell you which day/month comes next/before a given month?
- Help your child to form their numbers correctly (see sheet on the Year 1 page).
- Let your child help you to pay for small items using coins when shopping– encourage them to count out the exact amount using the fewest coins for example 18p using 10p+5p+2p+1p.
- Mention the time when you do familiar things such as having breakfast, going to school, going swimming so children start to recognise the language of time. Point out o'clock and half past times on an analogue clock (one with hands).
- Let your child help you to weigh items using scales when cooking.
- Measure items around the house using a non-standard item eg a hand, footstep, pencil.
- Use various sized and shapes containers in the bath – which holds the most water? How many of this one do you need to fill that one?
- Start counting from any number, initially in 1s (ie 4,5,6,7 etc), then when they are confident in 2s (4,6,8 etc but also 3,5,7 etc). Count to 20 initially, then to 100 and above, forwards and backwards.
- Give your child a word problem and ask them to identify the language they need to write a number sentence eg *I have 5 doughnuts, Mrs Wreglesworth eats 3 of them, how many do I have left is $5-3=$* . Encourage your child to solve this practically using eg pictures of doughnuts or pieces of dry pasta. Once they are confident let them tell you how they solve it at school using a numberline.
- Give your child problems to solve such as *how many ways can I share 3 balls between 2 people*. Give them the practical resources to attempt these problems.
- Other problems could include – *I have invited 5 people to my party, I only have 3 cakes, how many more cakes do I need?* Again, use practical resources.
- Encourage your child to discuss the methods they have used to find an answer
- Give your child directions to find a hidden 'treasure' eg go forward, turn left, look under the bed.

Websites

- http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/site/numeracy.shtml
- <http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/>
- <http://www.ictgames.com/resources.html>
- <http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks1numeracy.html>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/dynamo/parents/gameidea/> the maths games on this page develop more specific 'problem solving' skills.