

Helping your child with Maths in Early Years

Maths is taught using the objectives in the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. The emphasis is on children becoming confident in using the key skills which include counting, sorting, looking for patterns and relationships and working with numbers. Understanding is developed through stories, songs, games and play so that children enjoy experimenting with and using numbers larger than 10.

Numbers can be seen as 'labels', whether for house numbers, car number plates, television channels or other examples. The children are taught to recognize the names of numbers and to match them to sets of objects when counting. At this stage, calculating is about using numbers in practical situations. This may involve comparing different numbers of objects (subtraction and subtraction as difference), combining numbers of objects (addition), sharing objects equally between members of a group (division) and adding the same number of objects (multiplication). The objects could be actual items e.g. pencils, but they could also be actions e.g. the number of jumps.

Regular practice is essential to help children develop an understanding of number patterns and relationships. Much of the work is through structured opportunities to experiment and question e.g. how many times will this small bottle fill the larger one?

You can support your child in Maths by talking and listening to them in everyday activities. Family meals, bath time, baking and shopping are perfect activities to extend their vocabulary to include mathematical language through counting, comparing quantities and measuring amounts.

Please refer to the weekly homework letters for suggested activities to consolidate children's learning at home. Suggested activities may include:

- Playing simple counting games such as snakes and ladders; dominoes etc.
- Playing simple ordering games such as putting a pack of cards into numerical order (excluding Jacks, Queens and Kings); ordering buttons by size from smallest to largest.
- Playing simple matching games such as snap; match socks while doing the laundry etc.
- Finding shapes at home.
- Talking about the times of the day that particular events happen, such as waking up at 7 o'clock.

Be led by your child and follow their interests.

Remember to have FUN, so they will be motivated to 'play' again.

Useful Maths Vocabulary in the Early Years

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| <p>Counting how many...? count up to, count on from/to count back from/to, count in ones, twos... tens... more, less, many, few, odd, even, every other how many times? pattern, pair, guess how many, estimate, nearly, close to, about the same as just over, just under, too many, too few, enough, not enough</p> | <p>Comparing and ordering numbers the same number as, as many as, greater, more, larger, bigger, less, fewer, smaller, greatest, most, biggest, largest, least, fewest, smallest, one more, one less, compare, order, first, second, third... tenth last, last but one, before, after, next, between</p> |
| <p>Adding and subtracting add, more, and, make, total, altogether double, how many more to make... ? how many more is... than...? take (away), leave, how many are left/left over? how many have gone? one less, two less... how many fewer is... than...? difference between, is the same as</p> | <p>Problems involving money Compare, double, half, halve, pair, count out, share out, left, left over, money, coin, penny, pence, pound, price, cost, buy, sell, spend, spent, pay, change, costs more, cheap, costs less, cheaper, costs the same as, how much...? how many...? Total</p> |
| <p>Measures Measure, size, compare, guess, estimate, enough, not enough too much, too little, too many, too few nearly, close to, about the same as just over, just under full, half full, empty</p> | <p>Length length, width, height, depth, long, short, tall high, low, wide, narrow deep, shallow, thick, thin longer, shorter, taller, higher, longest, shortest, tallest, highest, far, near, close</p> |
| <p>Time <i>days of the week:</i> Monday, Tuesday... day, week, birthday, holiday, morning, afternoon, evening, night, bedtime, dinnertime, playtime today, yesterday, tomorrow, before, after, next, last now, soon, early, late, quick, quicker, quickest, quickly, slow, slower, slowest, slowly, old, older, oldest, new, newer, newest, takes longer, takes less time, hour, o'clock, clock, watch, hands</p> | <p>Position and direction over, under, above, below, top, bottom, side, on, in, outside, inside, around, in front, behind, front, back, before, after, beside, next to, opposite, apart, between, middle, edge, corner, direction, left, right, up, down, forwards, backwards, sideways, across close, far, near, along, through to, from, towards, away from,</p> |
| <p>Shape Circle, triangle, square, rectangle, star, cube, pyramid, sphere, cone, shape, pattern, flat, curved, straight, round, hollow, solid, corner, face, side, edge, end</p> | |