

Help Your Child with Maths

Counting household objects

Practice counting out objects, such as buttons, toys or sticks collected on a walk. Encourage your child to place objects in a row and point to the object as they say the number name.

If counting more than 10 objects, you can practise grouping into tens. For example, 24 is 2 tens and 4 ones.

You can also practise counting in twos, fives or tens using, for example, pairs of shoes, 5p and 10p coins etc.

Play dice games

Roll two or more dice and find the total, using household objects to count practically. Or start with a number of objects laid out in front of you (up to 20), roll a dice and then subtract the number on the dice to find how many objects are left.

Use children's toys

Begin to explore fractions using some of your child's favourite toys, such as toy cars or building blocks. You and your child can practise halving or quartering their toys by splitting them into two or four equal amounts.



Cooking

Baking something simple with your child is a great way to talk about measurements. You could also talk about time when setting the timer for it to cook.

Talk

Talk to children about the different uses of numbers. Talk about numbers you see all around you. For example, 'Can you see the number 5 on the gate?'.

Ask questions comparing real life things. For example, 'Which do you think is... the tallest, the smallest, the heaviest, the longest, the fastest, the most expensive?'.

Number Spotting

Try and spot numbers wherever you go – on a menu at a café, on the bus, at the shops or front doors on a walk.



Go online

Look online and in app stores for appropriate number and problem-solving games.



Shape Hunts

Understanding shape helps us to make sense of the world around us. Go on a shape hunt around your house. See if you can find circles, squares, rectangles, triangles, cuboids, cubes, pyramids and spheres.

You could turn this into a game of 'I Spy', making a game of spotting shape and patterns in real life.

Time

Talk about your daily routine with your child and discuss what time you will be doing each activity such as eating dinner, catching the bus or going to bed. Be sure to point out the time, especially at o'clock and half past the hour.

Involve maths in everyday life

Most of the activities that we do with our children involve maths - even simply going to the shops. Try to do a small amount of maths every day! This could include singing, counting songs such as 'Ten Green Bottles', counting the steps on the stairs, following a daily routine.

