

Helping your child learn at home in

MATHS

A child's daily life offers many practical opportunities to learn about number, shape, space, sorting and matching. For instance:

- setting places at the table - a cup for me, a cup for you
- playing with water
- steering the pram
- helping to sort the washing, matching socks,
- big shirt / small shirt
- tidying up - putting similar items together
- matching lids to saucepans

How you can support your child

Maths is not just about getting the right answers. It is about thinking things through and finding ways of solving problems. It does not matter if your child gets a wrong answer as long as they are able to explain their method of reasoning.

In the street

- Recognising bus numbers/number plate hunt. Who can find a 7? Add the numbers up.
- Comparing door numbers
- Counting - how many lampposts on the way to school?



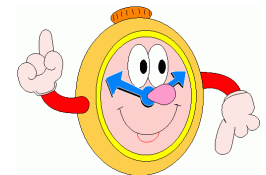
Doing the washing

- Counting in 2s - matching shoes
- Sorting by colour and size.
- Matching/pairing up socks.



Time

- What day is it yesterday, today, tomorrow?
- Use timers, phones and clocks to measure short periods of time.
- Count down 10/ 20 seconds to get to the table/ into bed etc.
- Recognising numbers on the clock. If you cover a number, what number was missing?



Food

- Can you cut your toast into 4 pieces? Can you cut it into triangles?
- Setting the table. Counting plates. How many more do we need?
- Can you make shapes/ patterns out of the knives and forks? Can you put them in the right place in the drawers?
- Helping with the cooking by measuring and counting ingredients.
- Positional language at dinner time: what is on the rice, where are the carrots?



Going shopping

- Reading price tags
- Counting items into the basket
- Finding and counting coins
- Comparing weights - which is heavier



Measuring

- Are you taller than a ...?
- Marking height on the wall.
- Cut hand shapes out of paper. How many hands long is the couch? How long is the table? Which is longer?
- Who has the biggest hands in our family?
- How many steps from the gate to the front door?



Shapes

- Cut a potato into shapes (circles, triangle etc). Use with paint to make pictures and patterns.
- Cut out shapes from coloured paper/ newspaper and arrange into pictures.
- Shape hunt: Can you find a square in your house (windows etc), a circle ...



Games

- Putting cards into piles
- Jigsaws, Snap (matching pairs) or Happy Families (collect 4 of a kind)
 - Snakes and ladders or other simple dice games.
 - Adding numbers on two dice.
 - Bingo, with numbers or shapes
 - Hopscotch



Playdough

Here's a simple recipe:

- 1 cup of plain flour
- 1 cup of water
- 1 tablespoon cooking oil
- 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- Half a cup of salt
- food colouring and essences (optional)

Put all ingredients in a large saucepan, and heat slowly, stirring all the time until it forms a ball. Keep it wrapped in clingfilm or in a covered tub to stop it drying out.



Then

- Make numerals and shapes
- Sort shapes into groups, or order by size
- Make long and short wiggly snakes.