



Everyone can do Maths

'It is really important that children develop positive attitudes and interests in mathematics, look for patterns and relationships, spot connections, 'have a go', talk to adults and peers about what they notice and not be afraid to make mistakes.'
(Taken from, *Development Matters a Non-statutory guidance for the EYFS, July 21*)

Below are some simple ideas to build numeracy skills into everyday activities at home. I'm sure you will think of lots more.

- Look out for and talk about numbers around the house or out and about.
- Talk about the days of the week, months of the year and seasons.
- Describe sequences of events in terms of what was first, second etc.
- Count out aloud together, remembering the counting sequence.
- Count objects with careful one to one correspondence, as well as things that cannot be seen e.g. claps or jumps.
- Count how many things are in the fridge, toy box or the cupboard.
- As you tidy up, encourage your child to arrange toys and books in order of size.
- Investigate different coins and talk about their value.
- Play card games such as snap or pairs to spot matching items or sort the socks for washing into pairs.
- Subitise (recognise by sight without counting) numbers of objects up to six.
- Play board games which need the use of a dice (numbers or spots) e.g. Ludo or snakes and ladders. Spotty dice are great for developing those subitising skills. If you use two dice they can add the numbers together for their move.
- Play games which involve calculating scores and do simple calculations together talking about 'more than', 'less than', 'fewer', 'the same as' and 'equal to'.
- Point out the time on the clock, particularly at breakfast, dinner or bedtime.
- Estimate small quantities and also measurements e.g. height, weight, shoe size etc. They do not have to know standard measures at this stage (metre, cm or mm), but being able to make a comparison using a non-standard unit of measure is important e.g. how many teddies long is your bed? Will mummy's bed be longer or shorter?
- When baking, compare quantities and talk about weight, capacity and volume.
- Allow your child to be in charge of setting a timer while you cook or if they are waiting for something or someone (sand timers are great because they are very visual). This will develop skills in estimating time.
- Use opportunities to share things out or divide them evenly e.g. fish fingers, cake or pizza.
- Encourage the children to mark make and record representations of numbers or do problem solving in their own way (as long as it makes sense to them).
- Refer to shapes (2D and 3D) in the environment and talk about repeating patterns and symmetry. The 3D shapes we focus on mainly are sphere, cone, cylinder, cube and cuboid.
- Help children develop positional and direction language by describing journeys or drawing maps using vocabulary such as over, under through, on top of next to etc.
- Involve your child in counting, calculations or measurements that you do for everyday tasks and make sure **they see you and themselves as capable mathematicians.**

Enjoy! Kind regards, Mrs Watts