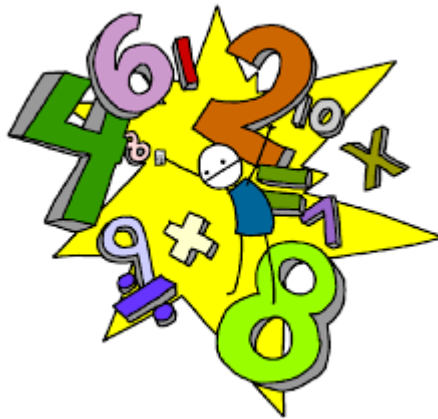




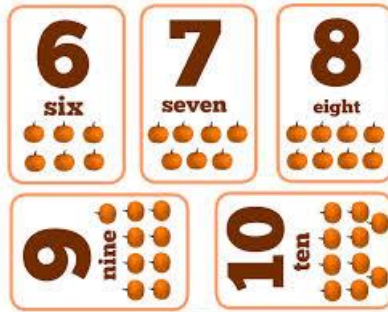
Helping your child with Maths



Fun activities to try at home to help your
child with Maths



Ways to help your child with Maths



In this leaflet you will find ideas for helping your child with Maths while they are playing. You will find questions to ask them to help them to think in a mathematical way.

- **Join in Rhymes** – Singing or chanting favourite number rhymes is a fun way to help your child with counting, adding and taking away
- You can make up your own actions to go with the rhymes.
- Here are some number rhymes you and your child could enjoy together:-

1 2 3 4 5
Once I caught a fish alive
6 7 8 9 10
Then I let it go again
Why did you let it go?
Because it bit my finger so
Which finger did it bite?
This little finger on my right

One, two, What shall I do?
Three, four, play on the floor.
Five, six, build with bricks.
Seven, eight, make a gate.
Nine, ten, knock it down again

5 green bottles standing on the wall,
5 green bottles standing on the wall,
And if 1 green bottle should
accidentally fall, they'd be 4 green
bottles standing on the wall

Ten little fingers
Ten little toes
Two little ears
And one little nose
Two little eyes
That shine so bright
One little mouth
To kiss goodnight

- **Recognise numerals** that are familiar to your child, for example, their age and house number
- **Counting** – There are many opportunities to count. For instance, counting fruit, cutlery to lay a table, counting buttons to fasten, stairs to climb

When you count objects with your child, you are helping them.....

- To learn number names.
- To get numbers in the right order.
- To say a number in the right order.
- To say a number for each item counted without missing any or counting an item more than once.

- **Sorting** – Children love to collect and sort things out. If you see your child making a collection talk to them about it and ask what they have found out.
- Find out by counting which of two collections has more/fewer objects. You can make collections using: shoes, leaves, photographs, boxes, toy cars, shells and buttons.



- **Patterns** – Talk about and describe simple patterns, based on experience with patterns from different cultures, on ornaments, in necklaces and bracelets, on textiles, pottery....Ask – Can you make a pattern with them? Can you copy my pattern? What shall I put down next?

Toy Cars

- ❖ How many blue cars have you got?
- ❖ Have you got more red cars than me?
- ❖ Say how many there are altogether by counting the objects.
- ❖ Say how many are left when some are taken away.



- Look at **Size, Shape, Weight, and position** of different collections. Talking together will help your child learn important words and early ideas of maths.
- Useful words when comparing and measuring: wide; narrow; thick; thin; heavy; light; deep; shallow

- **Shape** – Figuring out how to make a special box for treasures means you can explore shapes – their names and what they look like.
- Lets cut up some of these boxes and see what shapes they are made from.
- Can you see these shapes anywhere else?



- **Playing with Water** - Enjoy filling different sized bottles and let your child discover which holds the most. Talk about full and empty, half full, half empty. Will this water in the small container fill the large container? Pour the amount of water from wide containers into narrow ones, what happens? How many small cups does the large jug hold?
- **Positional Language** – Describe where objects are, for example the fish is above the weed in the pond, the frog is under the rock beside the pond.
- **Maths in the Kitchen** – Can you find me three big potatoes? See if there's a bigger plate to put the cake on.
- **Fun with Cooking** – Weigh the ingredients; count the cups full of flour, sugar etc. Talk about how heavy or light the ingredients are and read the recipe with your child. Make milkshakes or squash, talk about full/empty/half full/half empty glasses.
- **Make** playdough together, make models and compare the weight in your hands. Use playdough to make long and short snakes.

RECIPE FOR PLAYDOUGH

3 Cups of flour
1 cup of salt
A little cooking oil
Water to mix
Optional food colouring

Mix thoroughly and knead until pliable. Cook in a very low oven to bake hard.

- **At the Shops** – Your child can join in with shopping; they can find out about shapes, do lots of counting and see numbers in a variety of contexts.

- ❖ Choose 3 apples for me.
- ❖ Let's weigh them. Can you see the numbers telling us how much we have got and what it costs?
- ❖ Can you get the largest box of cornflakes with 1kg on it?
- ❖ When you get home, use the names of the shapes of packaging to discuss how to stack



- **Playing games, setting up imaginative play situations and reading stories** will help your child develop mathematical experience, language and understanding.

Dice Game

Use dotted dice and write numbers 1-6 on a sheet of paper. Throw the dice, can your child guess how many dots there are? Check by counting. Ask your child which number on the paper matches the dots on the dice.



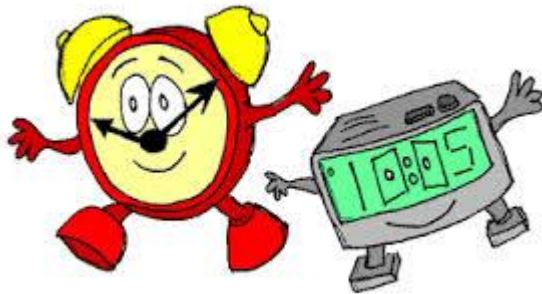
Build a Tower

For this game you need a dice and some building blocks or lego bricks. Take turns, roll the dice, and collect the number of bricks to build your own tower, the first to ten wins.

Looking at Clocks and Watches around the Home



Look at different clocks/watches, which ones have numbers on? Which have hands? How many clocks can you find at home? Count round the clock faces. Talk about today, yesterday, tomorrow.



Spot a Number

Choose a number of the day or when you are going on a trip. Encourage your child to look for this number all the time. For example on doors, car number plates.



The key to learning maths is confidence and enjoyment at a young age and this enjoyment through practical play using number, shape, space and measures will pave the way for a positive approach and help your child understand early mathematics so that they progress throughout their early life.