

Fun Maths

Children can work on improving their maths skills while completing a range of tasks around the home.

- ❖ Group objects together that have similar features e.g. put all the socks together, put all the items with the same colour, shape, size, cutlery etc. together.
- ❖ Hanging items up on a washing line can help children with their ordering and positioning skills.
- ❖ Sharing out a number of objects so that every person has the same number.
- ❖ Cooking tasks involving measuring, counting, mixing and stirring are also a good way to teach practical real-life maths skills.
- ❖ Working out which group of objects contains the most of a given item to learn about 'less' and 'more'.
- ❖ Growing plants from seeds could involve a child in counting seeds, counting how many seeds are in each pot and then observing and measuring the plants as they grow.
- ❖ Measure a range of toys, furniture, doors etc. in the house using a range of non-standard or standard equipment. This may include how many hands long is... how many steps wide is..., how many bricks tall is..., how many cars long is... Children can compare what they are measuring and give their estimate before they measure.
- ❖ For number recognition - have a number of the week and link as many activities as possible to that number. For example Number 5 - collect 5 toys, 5 spoons, find the number 5 hidden around the house/garden, build a tower with 5, number bonds to 5.
- ❖ Make paper pizzas, cake etc. and ask children to cut them up into different fractions.
- ❖ Using buttons, bricks etc. ask children to split the group in half, quarters, thirds etc.

- ❖ Times Tables - focus on one multiplication table at a time and link to a range of activities.
- ❖ Make a multiplication track, snake, train etc, then using question cards the child has to place their counter in the correct number. E.g. question card may have $4 \times 2 =$. This game can also be played for addition, subtraction, division, fractions and decimals.
- ❖ Playing board games reinforces numbers and counting.
- ❖ Shape treasure hunts around the house e.g. how many squares can you find (windows, cushions etc).
- ❖ Guess the number - ask your child to choose a number but keep it a secret. Ask them questions to try and guess what number they are thinking. Reverse the role, so you think of a number and they ask questions. This can also be played using shapes, think of a shape and ask questions.
- ❖ Introduce using money to pay for snacks/drinks/lunch during the day. Set up a small shop in the house. For older children ask them to arrange a sale in the shop and work out new prices for 10%, 20%, 50% etc.
- ❖ Play bingo
- ❖ Take the numbers from a car registration and see how many different numbers you can make. What is the smallest and biggest number you have? For more able children include decimal places.
- ❖ Battleships - using paper grids. Guess your opponent's co-ordinate.
- ❖ Using everyday items in the home, children estimate and measure perimeter, diameter, area etc.
- ❖ Online resources to support working at home include [Top Marks](#) maths and [Oxford Owl](#)
- ❖ [Fun Maths Activities](#) you can adapt the games to make them easier
- ❖ or harder.
- ❖ [Scholastic](#) has lots of great ideas for maths activities.
- ❖ Checking for understanding is important. It can help to ask a child to explain to an adult what they have just learned.