

How you can help at home

Parents ask how they can help their child. They often do a lot of mathematics at home without realising it. Everyday activities such as cooking, shopping, DIY and planning the day can provide opportunities for a range of mathematical skills including estimating, measuring and use of money.

As maths comes into so many situations, the best way to start is to talk to your children as you cook, shop, do jobs in the house or travel. Let them weigh the ingredients, handle money, sort the shopping and talk to you about how long a journey will take.

Children can practise their maths by:

- Finding the patterns in everyday things like adding up 2p, 5p or 10p coins, or reading house numbers as you go along your street.
- Helping out at meal times, counting out the number of ice-cream scoops for each member of the family and setting the table.
- Telling you the time (an analogue clock in your child's room will encourage them to tell the time, starting with their bedtime and the time they get up in the morning).
- Singing number rhymes and song such as one, two, three, four, five once I caught a fish alive....
- Playing games like Snakes and Ladders that involve taking turns and using dice and counters to move around a board.





Maths in Play

Playing games is fun and it will help your child to gain confidence in maths.

Dominoes down

Spread a set of dominoes face down on the table. Each player chooses a domino at the same time. Add the two numbers on your domino together. Whoever has the largest number keeps both dominoes. The person who ends up with the most dominoes wins!



Add Dominoes

(a game for two or more players)

Use an ordinary set of dominoes and give seven to each player. Put the rest face down on the table. This is the pool.

The first player puts one of their dominoes face up on the table. The next person puts down another domino joining on to the first one so that the spots add up to six.

Continue taking turns like this. If a player can't go they have to take a domino from the pool. The first player to get rid of all their dominoes is the winner.

I've got a number in my pocket!

My number is less than 50 but what is it?

A guess is wasted so ask questions that remove groups of numbers.



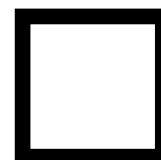
- Is it odd or even?
- Is it more or less than 30?

Track Games



Make a track game. Make it relevant to your child's interests and something they will want to play- space, dinosaurs, sport, book characters....
You can play this game on your track

- Throw a dice. Move along that number of spaces, BUT before you move, you must work out what number you will land on. If you are wrong, you don't move! Go along the track till the end and then start again. The first one to complete the track 3 times, wins.

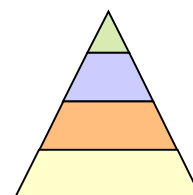
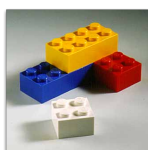
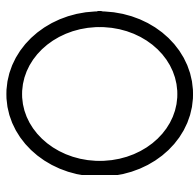


Maths takes shape!

Shapes and spaces are all around us. They affect how we arrange the furniture, decorate our homes and build the world around us!

At school we use 2 and 3 dimensional shapes, through sorting and classifying activities children develop an understanding of the properties of shapes, pattern making and symmetry.

At home construction sets and building blocks are important learning toys.



Why not

- Get an empty cereal box and carefully take it apart at the seams by undoing the edges. Flatten the box out and see its shape as a two-dimensional shape. This is called a 'net'.

- Choose a shape that you can look out for when you go to the shops. You might choose triangles, squares, cubes and so on. How many shapes can you see in your shopping trolley?

What do you notice?

Talking to your child about examples of maths you see as you go to school, go shopping, go to the park will encourage your child to talk about Maths. and see how vital it is.

