

Help Your Child with Maths

Counting

Practise counting out objects, such as buttons, toys or sticks collected on a walk. Encourage your child to point to each object as they say the number name.



Songs and Rhymes

Songs and rhymes are great for helping young children learn to count. Focus on numbers 1-5 and then 1-10. Try 'Five Little Ducks Went Swimming One Day' and '1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive'.



Matching

Dominoes can be a great way to understand that a number refers to an amount of objects. Matching games can also help your child to understand 1:1 correspondence.

Talk

Talk to children about the different uses of numbers. Talk about numbers you see all around you. For example, 'Look, there are three cats on the wall' or, 'Can you see the number 5 on the gate?' Play games and talk about the numbers on the dice (board games are great for this).

Cooking

Measure ingredients, bake something yummy together and set the timer for it to cook.



Number Spotting

Try and spot numbers wherever you go – on a menu at a cafe, on the bus, at the shops or people's front doors on a walk.



Shapes

Understanding shape helps us to make sense of the world around us. Go on a shape hunt around your house. See if you can find circles, squares, rectangles or triangles.

Sorting

Anything can be sorted into groups! Sorting objects into sets of things with similar characteristics is important for beginning to understand what things have in common. This could be snacks, buttons or toys and can be extended to talk about how many are in each group. You could ask, 'Which has more? Which has less? Let's count and check!'



Ordering Numbers

Once your child has become familiar with counting then they can start ordering numbers. You could label blocks, cars or dinosaurs with numbers 1-5 then 1-10 and enjoy putting them in the correct order, muddling them up and starting again.



Every Day

Do maths every day! You might not think it but you will already be doing maths every day. Helping your child get dressed, going to the shops, singing counting songs, counting the steps on the stairs, following a daily routine – most activities we do with our child involve maths.

Play

Play with objects, such as shells, bottle tops, beads or building blocks. These can be sorted into sets, used to make simple patterns or pictures (like a face or boat) or used to prompt discussions about shape.

