



Practical ideas to help with maths outside of school.

Younger Children- Foundation Stage, Year 1 and 2



In the street

- Recognising bus numbers
- Number plate hunt. Who can find a 7? Add the numbers up.
- Comparing door numbers
- Counting – how many lampposts on the way to school?

Doing the washing

- Counting in 2s – matching shoes
- Sorting by colour and size.
- Matching/pairing up socks.
- Find four shoes that are different sizes. Can you put them in order.



Time

- What day is it yesterday, today, tomorrow?
- Use timers, phones and clocks to measure short periods of time.
- Count down 10/ 20 seconds to get to the table/ into bed etc.
- Recognising numbers on the clock. If you cover a number, what number was missing?
- Play some time challenges... How many times can I throw a ball in 30 seconds?

Food

- Can you cut your toast into 4 pieces? Can you cut it into triangles?
- Setting the table. Counting the right number of plates etc. How many more do we need?
- Can you make shapes/ patterns out of the knives and forks. Can you put them in the right place in the drawers?
- Helping with the cooking by measuring and counting ingredients.
- Setting the timer.
- Positional language at dinner time: what is on the rice, where are the carrots etc?





Measuring

- Are you taller than a ...?
- Marking height on the wall.
- Cut hand shapes out of paper. How many hands long is the couch? How long is the table? Which is longer?
- Who has the biggest hands in our family?
- How many steps from the gate to the front door?

Games

- Jigsaws (you can make your own by cutting up a magazine picture)
- Snap (matching pairs) or Happy Families (collect 4 of a kind)



- Snakes and ladders or other simple dice games.
- Adding numbers on two dice.
- Bingo, with numbers or shapes
- Hopscotch

Number rhymes and songs

*Eg: 5 little monkeys jumping on the bed
One fell off and bumped his head
Mummy called the doctor and the doctor said
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"
4 little monkeys jumping on the bed ...*



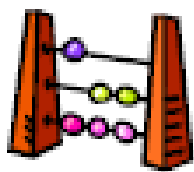
Your child can teach you lots more or try this website which has the words and sings it for you:

http://www.nurseryrhymes4u.com/NURSERY_RHYMES/COUNTING.html

Going Shopping

- Reading price tags
- Counting items into the basket
- Finding and counting coins
- Comparing weights – which is heavier
- Role playing shopping at home





Practising Number Facts

- Find out which number facts your child is learning at school. These should be brought home by children.
- Play 'ping pong' to practise number bonds and times tables. You say a number. They reply with how much more is needed to make 10. You can also play this game with numbers totalling 20, 100 or 1000. Encourage your child to answer quickly, without counting or using fingers.
- Throw 2 dice. Ask your child to find the total of the numbers (+), the difference between them (-) or the product (x). Can they do this without counting?
- Use a set of playing cards (no pictures). Turn over two and ask your child to add or multiply the numbers. If they answer correctly, they keep the cards. How many cards can they collect in 2 minutes?
- Play Bingo. Each player chooses five answers (e.g. numbers to 10 to practise simple addition, multiples of 5 to practise the five times tables). Ask a question and if a player has the answer, they can cross it off. The winner is the first player to cross off all their answers.
- Give your child an answer. Ask them to write as many addition sentences as they can with this answer (e.g. $10 = +$). Try with multiplication or subtraction.
- Give your child a number fact (e.g. $5+3=8$). Ask them what else they can find out from this fact (e.g. $3+5=8$, $8-5=3$, $8-3=5$, $50+30=80$, $500+300=800$, $5+4=9$, $15+3=18$). Add to the list over the next few days. Try starting with a x fact as well.



Shapes and Measures

- Play 'guess my shape'. You think of a shape. Your child asks questions to try to identify it but you can only answer 'yes' or 'no' (e.g. Does it have more than 4 corners? Does it have any curved sides?)
- Hunt for right angles around your home. Can your child spot angles bigger or smaller than a right angle?
- Look for symmetrical objects. Help your child to draw or paint symmetrical pictures / patterns?
- Make a model using boxes/containers of different shapes and sizes. Ask your child to describe their model.
- Practise measuring the lengths or heights of objects (in metres or cm). Help your child to use different rulers and tape measures correctly. Encourage them to estimate before measuring.
- Let your child help with cooking at home. Help them to measure ingredients accurately using weighing scales or measuring jugs. Talk about what each division on the scale stands for.
- Choose some food items out of the cupboard. Try to put the objects in order of weight, by feel alone. Check by looking at the amounts on the packets.
- Practise telling the time with your child. Use both digital and analogue clocks. Ask your child to be a 'timekeeper' (e.g. tell me when it is half past four because then we are going swimming).
- Use a stop watch to time how long it takes to do everyday tasks (e.g. how long does it take to get dressed?). Encourage your child to estimate first



Problem Solving

- Go shopping with your child to buy two or three items. Ask them to work out the total amount spent and how much change you will get.
- Buy some items with a percentage extra free. Help your child to calculate how much of the product is free.
- Plan an outing during the holidays. Ask your child to think about what time you will need to set off and how much money you will need to take.
- Use a TV guide. Ask your child to work out the length of their favourite programmes. Can they calculate how long they spend watching TV each day / each week?
- Use a bus or train timetable. Ask your child to work out how long a journey between two places should take? Go on the journey. Do you arrive earlier or later than expected? How much earlier/later?
- Help your child to scale a recipe up or down to feed the right amount of people.
- Work together to plan a party or meal on a budget.



Useful websites to help your child with maths.

Links to these can also be found on the school website

Improving Fluency

<https://ttrockstars.com/login> All children in years 2-6 should have username and password

<http://www.teachingtables.co.uk/>

http://www.transum.org/Tables/Times_Tables.asp Learn a new times table in 5 days

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/multiplication/play/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/game/mal3tabl-game-tables-grid-find>

<http://www.learnyourtables.co.uk/>

<http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-number-bonds>

Mathematical Challenge

<http://nrich.maths.org/primary-upper> - Links to Key Stage 2 but there are also activities appropriate for younger children

<http://www.mathsisfun.com/puzzles/>

<http://mathschallenge.net/links/problems>

Other Helpful Maths Links

<http://woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/games/index.html> - Mixed maths games

<http://www.coolmath4kids.com/> - Mixed maths games

<http://www.mathcats.com/explore/reallybignumbers.html> Learning to say REALLY big numbers

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education> Not just maths- a range of helpful learning clips

<http://www.mathplayground.com/> Mixed maths games

<http://www.cambridge.org/elt/resources/young/interactive/clock/> Helpful tool for learning to tell the time

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/numbertime/index.shtml> Mixed maths games for 4-11 year olds

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/> Maths games and teaching resources

<http://www.ictgames.com/resources.html>



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www.springlaneprimary.com

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