



Maths is everywhere

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Maths really is everywhere and learning about it does not just happen at school or nursery. Children have lots of important mathematical experiences every day and there are lots of ways to help them to develop these skills.

Young children need help to understand what maths is used for and you can do this by talking about the maths you use in your day-to-day life. For example:

- Checking with them the bus number as it arrives
- Reading aloud the quantities printed on boxes and tins of food
- Pointing out the numbers on the clock
- Finding the TV channel on the remote control together
- Talking about how things fit and tidying away toys into boxes

Maths learning at different stages

This is a guide to what children will be learning. Remember that children learn and develop at different rates.

Toddlers:

From 18 months onwards, most toddlers will be learning:

- Some number words
- Their birthday number
- Pairs of shoes
- The sequence 1,2,3
- How to sort out similar objects
- Some position words, such as 'in', 'on top'
- How to post shapes

Aged three to four:

Children will slowly understand more about numbers, shapes and measurements.

- Say numbers up to 10
- Count up to 10 objects and put them in different patterns
- Recognise the written numbers up to 10
- Use words to compare things
- Name shapes such as circle, square, triangle
- Use words to describe where things are.

Maths around the house

Here are some ideas that you could use at home to help develop your child's mathematical skills.

- Talk about which order to get dressed in, and which items to put on first, next and last.
- Sort out clothes to see which ones are the right size and which are too big or too small
- Match pairs of things together: shoes, socks, gloves
- In the bath, use plastic tubs and small toys. Count how many toys will make the boat sink.

Maths outdoors

- Look for numbers as you are walking along the street together. You can see how many of a particular number you can find.
- Give children a small bag in which to collect five interesting objects such as conkers, feathers, stones, then talk about them when the collection is complete.
- Compare shopping bags to find out which is heavier.
- Play 'I spy' using description instead of letters, for example 'I spy with my little eye something that is small and very smooth'.

More maths ideas

- Playing with a calculator
- Using fingers, toes, eyes and noses
- Making a birthday card for a friend and writing the number of their birthday on the card
- Cutting out numbers in magazines and catalogues.
- Playing card games such as Snap
- Sort out and playing a game of dominos
- Using dice to play board games, such as snakes and ladders

These activities will support with shapes and measures:

- Helping to read a recipe and weighing out the ingredients
- Filling up small boxes with objects
- Using empty food packets and boxes to build a castle.
- Hiding a small toy in a box of shredded paper and then finding it again



Useful Links:

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies

www.topmarks.co.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize