

Everyday maths:

**for use at home with all
primary school children**



**Leading
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Selwyn PARTNERSHIP FOR SUCCESS
PRIMARY SCHOOL 

You can help support and consolidate the maths that your child has been learning at school by showing him/her how we use maths in real life situations.

Remember the '3 c's' of maths at home: **clocks**, **cooking** and **cash**. All three provide endless opportunities to discuss how we use numbers every day.

Some other useful props include:

- 1) Tape measure and ruler: let your child help you with simple DIY tasks using these tools; discuss the differences between imperial and metric measurements.
- 2) Chocolate in squares: useful for discussing division and fractions.
- 3) Magnetic numbers: put these in a prominent place, and use to construct simple calculations.
- 4) Dartboard: not only a chance to play with your child, but also to discuss addition, subtraction and multiplication, and what is required to complete the game.
- 5) Standard dice and unusual dice: can have more than 6 sides.
- 6) Dominoes: useful for showing different combinations of numbers.
- 7) Thermometer: useful to discuss both positive and negative numbers, as well as getting a feel for the numerical value of different temperatures.
- 8) Prominent clocks: try to have both analogue and digital clocks; use to discuss the time and the different ways in which it is displayed. Also practise counting in 5s.
- 9) Wall calendar: discuss days, weeks and months, and how they fit together.
- 10) Board games: use dice to practise addition and counting. Also useful to teach taking turns, and for children to learn about winning and losing.
- 11) Packs of cards: cards can be used to play a large variety of games, many of which support number recognition and provide an introduction to probability

and chance.

- 12) Calculator: useful for basic computation; can also be used to discover interesting patterns.
- 13) Measuring jug: to compare imperial and metric measurements, as well as fractions.
- 14) Measuring scales: counting and measuring; understanding units of measurement – and use to have fun baking with your child!
- 15) Dried beans/pasta: counting, dividing and finding the difference

When discussing maths and mathematical concepts with your child, remember:

- 1) When a child gets a question wrong, it is tempting to tell them they are wrong and how to correct it. Instead, try to ask them to explain how they got to their answer and help them try to spot their mistake.
- 2) If they do arrive at the correct answer, ask them to explain their working – and perhaps discuss alternative methods.
- 3) Play games with your child: games are full of maths and are an ideal way to engage your child in mathematical thinking.
- 4) Make maths a casual part of what you are doing – e.g. what number is that bus? Can you estimate how many paces we are from home? How long do you think it will take to get to school? How many plates do we need if we have a friend coming to tea?

Remember to make maths useful, relevant and fun!

Some further ideas for use with younger children:

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?



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?



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?

Going shopping

- Reading price tags
- Counting items into the basket
- Finding and counting coins
- Comparing weights – which is heavier



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?

Playdough

Here's a simple recipe:

1 cup of plain flour

1 cup of water

1 tablespoon cooking oil

2 teaspoons cream of tartar

Half a cup of salt

food colouring and essences (optional)

Put all ingredients in a large saucepan, and heat slowly, stirring all the time until it forms a ball. Keep it wrapped in clingfilm or in a covered tub to stop it drying out.



Then

- Make numerals and shapes
- Sort shapes into groups, or order by size
- Make long and short wiggly snakes.

Games

- Putting cards into piles
- 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 ...*



Shapes

- Cut a potato into shapes (circles, triangle etc). Use with paint to make pictures and patterns.
- Cut out shapes from coloured paper/ newspaper and arrange into pictures.
- Shape hunt: Can you find a square in your house (windows etc), a circle ...

