

Mathematics

In the preschool, we ensure that play and exploration are centred on sound mathematical concepts. These are just a few ideas you can try at home.

Here are some ideas to start with:

There's maths in all the everyday activities you already do together with your child:

- **Cooking.** Measure ingredients and set the timer together.
- **Practise counting** up to twenty and then back to one using everyday objects.
- **Find the same amount of different items** to help your child understand what numbers mean. For example, find 3 spoons, 3 hats, or 3 socks.
- **Talk about the shape and size of objects**, e.g. big car, round ball, rectangular box. Ask questions like "pass me the biggest box", or "which is the smallest shoe?".
- **Play with items** like shells, bottle tops, beads, Lego and compare them. Try making patterns with them together.
- **Put items in order.** You could do this by weight, height or size. Ask your child to help you organize items around the house.
- **Make patterns** with objects, coloring pencils, paint or Play-Doh.
- **Build structures** with Duplo, Lego or boxes.
- **Solve problems.** Work out "how many altogether" and "how many more". As your child questions such as "We have 3 red apples and 2 green apples, so how many apples do we have altogether?".

What skills are we practising?

- **Measuring, Counting, Addition and subtraction, Comparison, Patterns, Order, Problem solving, Reasoning and Shape**



Learning Shapes
With Toy Cars



Practise using math with your child outside your home!

Exploring your local community and playing sports provides loads of opportunities to start thinking about numbers and keeping active.

- **Go on a shape hunt at the park or while you're out and about.** How many circles, squares, rectangles or triangles can your child find? Are they 2 dimensional or 3 dimensional? Try getting them to look for patterns.
- **Play games that use counting.** Hopscotch, hide and seek, What's the Time Mr Wolf, skipping or hula hooping are a great place to start.
- **Dance.** Create patterns by making up short dances and rhythms using your body (e.g. clap, clap, stomp, belly slap, and repeat).
- **Sport.** Sports are the perfect chance for your child to think about speed, scores, time and angles. Get competitive; how many goals or points can your child score? How many can you score?
- **Look for numbers** on doors, buses, cars, signs, at the shops... anywhere. Remember to talk about what the numbers mean.

- **Count anything.** How many lampposts are on our street? How many houses have a red door? How many dogs can you count in a day?
- **Talk about time.** How long does it take to walk to the shop, or to school?

What skills are we practising?

- **Pattern, Shape, Counting, Adding and subtracting, Time, Speed, Angles, Measurement and Sequences and patterns**



Games - Have fun with math!

Games help children develop a positive attitude towards math.

- **Play with cards.** Take 2 cards and add the numbers together, the player with the highest number wins.
- **Play with blocks.** Get them to think about size, colour, shape, weight and texture. Create patterns and structures, ask them to guess how many blocks they could pile up without them falling down.
- **Play 'I spy'** with numbers and shapes.
- **Play with containers.** For example, how many socks can you fit in the box, which container holds the most sand, water or beads etc.
- **Play the Clue Game.** Pick an object and give your child clues to that object by using directional language, such as up, down, over, under, between, through, beside, behind, in front of, and on top of. Make the game more challenging by giving two part directions e.g. "It's on top of the table and to the left of the TV".
- **Board Games** are great for developing skills. Try games like Connect 4, Jenga or Snakes and Ladders.



These information are based on National Numeracy organisation and you can find more on <http://www.familymathstoolkit.org.uk/>