

Helping your young child at home: 'Mathematics' Part 1

How can I help my child at home?

Young children need lots of experiences to support their developing understanding of mathematical concepts and to embed the understanding of 'Maths' in lots of different ways. Maths is all around us and you can help your child in lots of ways every day.

Mathematics is part of the Early Learning Goals that children are expected to achieve by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Being a 'mathematician' provides opportunities for children to further develop their communication and language skills and understanding of the world around them.

How can I help my child understand maths?

One of the best ways to help your young child learn about maths is supporting their understanding and use of correct 'maths' vocabulary and language when they are playing and exploring.

Number

Help your child to know what numbers look and feel like:

1, 2, 3... 1st, 2nd, 3rd...



One, Two, Three...



- Count and collect objects such as leaves and sticks on a walk, make collections and talk about how many, who has more, who has fewer / less... Count objects carefully one at a time.
- Counting body parts into clothes, 1 leg, 2 legs, one foot, second foot, hands or fingers into mittens and gloves.
- Point out different representations of numbers on road and building signs and markings when out and about, prices and labels at the shops.
- Explain the language you use such as a pair of wellies and socks meaning two.
- Sing! Number rhymes and songs are a great way to recall number facts and counting forwards and backwards. Baa, Baa Black Sheep, Baa, Baa Black Sheep, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 once I caught a fish alive, five little ducks, five little speckled frogs, ...BBC Nursery-Rhymes

Counting Songs

- When waiting in queues, playing games or waiting for a turn use words such as 1st, 2nd, last, next, after the 2nd person to support understanding order.
- Birthdays are a great way to talk about number, how many candles, numerals on cards, who is the oldest, youngest, how much older or younger are they?

What could we try next?

Questions



Ask questions which give your child a chance to explain their thinking, try starting with...

What, Why, When, Where, Who and How

What could we try next? How did you work it out?

Give your child plenty of thinking time... before helping them answer



Problem Solving

Try to 'ponder' so your child can help you solve a problem, "How many slices of bread do we need for your sandwich?" "How many plates do we need for lunch?" Young children will love helping you answer. Getting it correct will boost their confidence with having a go! If they get it wrong, it's a great opportunity to solve the problem together!

Books

Lots of books have great maths links for discussion... click the links below:

- [Book Trust - Counting books](#)
- [Children's books that foster a love of math](#)



Parent Video Vault

Early Math Skills from Oxford Owl

- [Counting skills video](#)
- [Place Value Video](#)
- [Counting on and Back](#)
- [Subtraction](#)
- [Partitioning](#)
- [Number Bonds](#)
- [Addition](#)
- [Cbeebies - Help your child with maths](#)

Games

Games are a great way to learn number skills:

- Simple card games:
 - ✓ Snap
 - ✓ pairs
- Simple Board Games
- Hopscotch
- Dominoes
- Snakes and Ladders
- Bowling

