

### Helping your young child at home: 'Mathematics' Part 2

#### 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. It is especially important for children to understand and use the correct maths vocabulary. 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?

##### Shape, Spatial Awareness, Measures

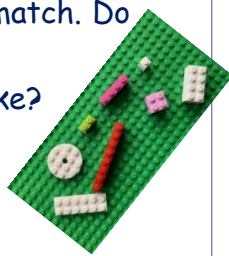
**Height / Length** - Compare, order and discuss height of family members, household objects like candles, build towers with cubes, toy bricks and tins. Who has the tallest, shortest? Whose is taller than or shorter than my tower? Length of objects like family shoes, leaves and sticks on a walk and playing in the park. Which is the longest / shortest? Whose shoe is longer than your shoe? Whose shoe is shorter than mine?

- **Vocabulary:** measure, size, long, longer, longest, Tallest, taller, tall, short, shorter, shortest.



**Sort, Match and Pattern** - sort, match and spot patterns in clothes, books, prints, toys and objects - How can we sort the toys? By colour? Type: such as cars/ buses/ lorries or super heroes that fly/ cant.... or Lego with 2,4,6 studs? Match socks and shoes and discuss why they match. Do the patterns repeat, what colours do you see? Try rubbing wax crayons on paper over brick walls, pavements, coins and flat shapes. What pattern does your shoe sole make?

- **Vocabulary:** Repeating pattern, sequence, match, sort, same, different



**Weight / Mass** - fill containers, food packers and tins and toys such as cars that are Heavy and light. Choose items that are easy to compare so it is easy for your child to choose the correct vocabulary to describe and compare. To increase a little challenge, look at objects that are large and light compared to small and light.

- **Vocabulary:** measure, size, weigh, weights, balances, heavy, light heavier than, lighter than, heaviest, lightest, scales



**Capacity** - Give your child opportunities to play with water, sand or pasta, pour to fill and empty containers. Compare your containers whose cup is full or empty? How many cups fill the large bowl?

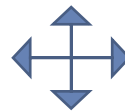
- **Vocabulary:** measure, full, empty, half full, holds, container, half empty.



*The only way to learn mathematics is to do mathematics*  
Paul Halmos

**Positional language** – play hide the teddy or favourite toy –where is it? Read or watch We're going on a bear hunt by Michael Rosen it's a great story for introducing some positional words.

- **Vocabulary:** position over, under above, below top, bottom, side on, in outside, inside, around, in front, behind front, back, beside, next to, opposite, apart between, middle, direction, left, right up, down, forwards, backwards, sideways



**Size and Shape** – sort and organize toys by their size and shape, compare fruit and veg, shoes, food packets and tins of the same shape but different size. Are they all the same shape or size? *Flat shapes: in theory you can't move a flat shape.*

- **Vocabulary:** Sort, match, size, large, larger, largest, small, smaller, smallest, shape, flat, curved, straight, round, hollow, solid
- 3D Shape- cube, cuboid, sphere, cone, pyramid...face, edge, vertices
- 2D Shape - square, oblong/rectangle, circle, triangle, pentagon...corner, side



**Daily Routines** – talk about dates, days of the week and the time of the day and its features, 'It's morning time and we will have breakfast', 'This evening / tonight we will...' Discuss how time helps organise ourselves - 'Look it is 7 o'clock we have to go and get ready for bed.'

**Cooking** – measure ingredients, count how many cakes you have made, share them out.

**Money** – Help your child understand money by sorting coins, talk about how many pennies each coin represents, play shops together.

- **Vocabulary:** coins, money, penny, pennies, pence, notes, pounds, how much, change...



*Play is the highest form of research*  
Albert Einstein

## Programmes and apps to support your child at home with maths

Alongside lots of practical experiences and discussion, there are some great programmes and apps for children to support their Mathematic skills:

- Cbeebies - Numberblocks
- Cbeebies - Numtums
- Cbeebies - Numeracy games and activities
- Hungry Little Minds

Government - Early Years Apps Parent Guidance

## Parent Information Websites Links

This document What to expect, when? Explains what your child should be demonstrating at each age and stage of development.

- Oxford Owl Maths Skills for 3-4 Year olds
- Oxford Owl Maths Skills for 4-5 year olds
- Oxford Owl Maths Skills for 5-6 Year olds

**Maths Songs and Rhymes are a great way to learn. Click the links**

[Cbeebies Radio Numeracy songs](#)  
[Cbeebies - Numberblocks Songs](#)