

Developing maths skills in everyday life.

Games and activities to try...

- Talk about maths through stories, songs, games and imaginative play.
- Play games like Snakes and Ladders that involve using a dice.
- Play skittles -using ten cardboard tubes which can be knocked over with a soft ball.
- Make a target game - place three or four empty boxes in the floor. Label empty boxes with numbers 1 to 5. Encourage your child to help you to make up rules for the game. How many paper balls can you throw in a turn? How many does the winner of the game need to score altogether?
- Play a hidden objects game -place five small objects on a tray; buttons, coins, counters or pebbles etc.
Count the objects together. Now cover them with a cloth and remove one or two of the objects from the tray. Look at how many objects you have removed and ask: 'How many things are left on the tray?' Count out with them. Which objects are missing? Describe them.
- Measure your child's height and talk about how much they've grown.
- On car journeys - playing number-plate games, spotting numbers and seeing if they can spot numbers in order.
- In the kitchen – cooking and comparing amounts.
- Making models using different shapes, talking about shapes of packaging.

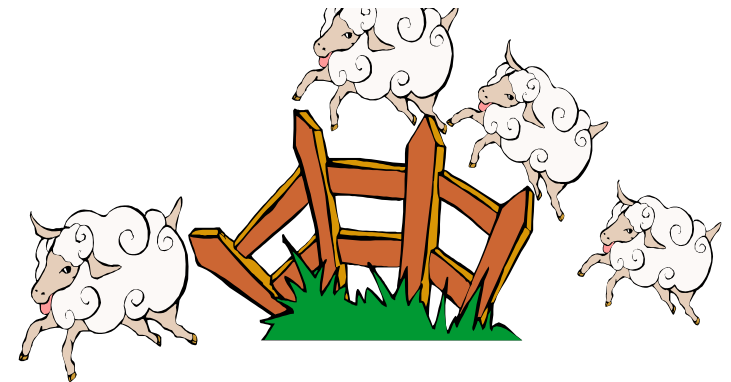
St Alphege C of E Infant School
and Sunbeams Nursery



How to Help your Child with Maths

Maths is
fun!

1 2 3 4 5



This leaflet provides you with information about how we teach maths in the Reception year and a few tips for involving your child with maths at home.

Maths is all around us!

Maths in the Reception year

Many children come into school with an awareness of number, and as the year goes on we will be concentrating even more on the early skills of recognition, counting and using numbers to problem solve. Showing the children that maths is part of everything they do, helps them to gain confidence and find maths fun!

So this is all done through play opportunities, inside and outdoors. We focus on...

Counting

- Helping your child to learn to recognise all the numerals from 1 to 20. Pointing out numbers we see in everyday activities, such as numbers on packets or prices, counting cars, counting in rhymes and singing games, ordering beads on a string, finding hidden numbers in sand, water and dough etc.
- We introduce zero, (0) as a way of describing nothing or none.
- We explain that there are no new numbers used when we want to write the number ten, but we use a '1' and a '0' together.
- Helping the children develop an understanding of positional language - e.g. make collections of amounts of shells, buttons or pasta shapes, and knowing which amount represents which number; and which order numbers come in.
- Matching in this way helps then quickly estimate amounts in larger numbers and get a 'feel' for what 10 is compared to say 3.

Adding and subtracting

- The children are taught about '1 more' and '1 less', which leads to addition and subtraction using different numbers.
- Weighing and measuring through lots of practical activities reinforces this skill.

- Jumping along number lines, walking on footprints and sorting amounts of fruit etc really helps develop understanding.

Early multiplication and division

- Believe it or not by counting in twos, and tens the children begin to understand these more complex concepts.
- Sharing treats out so there are enough for all the children, slicing pizza etc really works too.

Shape, space and measure

- Learning shape names and features are embedded through playing with construction, junk modelling etc.
- Using non-standard measures e.g. how many hands long something is helps the children compare objects.

Maths Language

- This can be difficult for the children to grasp as there are so many terms for each concept, e.g. take away, minus, subtract etc.
- Talking about maths, and helping the children to explain their thinking in what they are doing is the most important skill.

It is where you can help at home too...