



Maths in EYFS & KSI

We all use maths every day, often without realising it. We believe that every child can develop the numeracy skills that they need both at school and at home. Helping your child feel confident about maths gives them a head start and there are so many opportunities to play with numbers and help your child feel positive about maths. Point out that you're doing maths – this helps them see that maths has purpose and isn't scary. Here are some ideas for activities you can do with your child, to help them see the maths in everyday life.

Go on a number hunt – look for numbers in your house, in your road, on cars, on doors, in shops, on your way to school. Who can spot the most number 3s? Which number between 0 and 9 do you see the most?

Cooking – Measure ingredients together, set the timer, work out how much more food you will need if extra people are coming for dinner. If sharing food such as pizza or cake, ask your child to help you share it equally between the number of people eating. At dinner time, encourage your child to lay the table, helping them to work out how many knives, forks, spoons, plates etc they will need.

Shopping - (real life and in imaginary play) Encourage your child to write a shopping list and guess how much things will cost. Get them familiar with coins and notes, so that they recognise the value of each. When out at the shops together, talk to your child about the items you are buying – which are more expensive, which are cheaper, which are heavier, lighter etc. When playing shops at home, use real or pretend money. You can use items from around your home to 'sell' in the shop. Talk about giving change, or even paying by card!

Create repeating patterns – using objects, coloured pencils, paint, playdough or in structures with Lego or building blocks. Start simple (eg red, blue, red, blue and build up gradually).

Card games – Find matching pairs. Or pick two cards and add the numbers together – highest total wins OR lowest total wins.

Board games – board games are great for developing counting skills. Show your child how to count on and back from a given number on the board, using a dice will help your child become familiar with the dot pattern and it won't be long before they don't need to count them.

Recognising dot patterns of small quantities is a mathematical skill known as subitising and is an essential part of early understanding of number.)

Dominoes – Find matching pairs in order to keep the domino trail going.

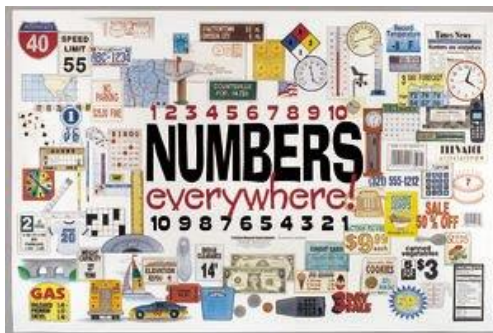
I spy – Play I spy with numbers and shapes. Or pick an object and give your child clues to the object by using positional/directional language such as up, down, higher, lower, under, over, in between, next to, beside, behind, in front of, underneath etc. Make the game more challenging by giving 2 part directions eg 'It's on top of the table and to the left of the TV'. Swap things round and get your child to ask questions about the mystery object eg Is it bigger than an orange? Is it an even number? etc...

Shape hunt - (Discuss the shape and size of objects) How many 2d shapes (circles, squares, rectangles, triangles) can you spot in your house? Or during a walk in the high street, or at the park. What about 3d shapes (cubes, cuboids, spheres, pyramids)?

Sport and Physical Activity – Count star jumps, bunny hops and skips, time how long it takes to run from one spot to another, count how many times can you bounce a ball or throw and catch a bean bag in 30 seconds.

Time – Talk about the time a favourite programme starts, how much time it takes to walk to school, how long it takes to bake a cake. Look at both analogue and digital clocks and watches.

Dancing – Choose a favourite piece of music and create a dance sequence with your child – learn it and practice it together. Start simply with two or 3 moves, then build up.



Be positive about maths!

Praise effort over talent.

Have fun!

