



Supporting your child's learning in Mathematics

Year R

Ideas for helping your child to develop their mathematical understanding:

- Encourage counting to higher numbers:
 - playing hide and seek;
 - counting out objects;
 - counting catches/throws/bounces of a ball;
- Encourage reading numbers:
 - Finding the house number when visiting a new place;
 - Games that involve numbers such as Snakes and Ladders;
- Look for maths in storybooks, songs and rhymes.
- Encourage calculations in real-life situations:
 - How many more ... do we need? e.g. How many more eggs will we need to buy to make the recipe?
 - Gardening and DIY have lots of opportunities for maths.
 - Will we have enough? Have we got enough cakes for everyone?
 - If we share these among the family, how many are we going to get each?
 - How many plates, forks etc do we need today?
- Talk about the measures we use every day:
 - Talk to your child about time. Do they know what time they go to bed, get up, go to school etc?
 - Have we got enough time to...? e.g. It's bedtime in half an hour, have we got time to watch Toy Story/read this book/have a bath/make a cake etc. This develops the understanding of the way we mentally plan what we are going to do for the time we have.
 - Does your child confidently talk about the days of the week and months of the year?
 - Talk about things that will happen in the future using dates (particularly months);
 - Talk about things that happened in the past using months;
 - Use a calendar to count down how many days/months to a special event;
 - Can your child say how much each coin is worth?
 - What does your child understand about age? Talk about the ages of the different generations of people in your family. Talk about important ages e.g. at 11 we go to Secondary School; at 18 we become an adult etc.
- Useful websites – lots of games!
 - <http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html>
 - <http://www.offbyheart.co.uk/maths/>
 - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/numbertime/>
 - http://www.familylearning.org.uk/counting_games.html