

Maths in the home environment

Age Groups: Toddler & Pre-school

Learning @ Home

Here are some ideas that can help your child develop their mathematical skills both at home and when out and about with the family.

Number

- Counting steps/stairs as you go up – perfect for one to one matching
- Counting white cars, dogs, birds – on the way to nursery, the shops or whilst in the car.
- Pairing up socks and shoes/
- Laying the table – how many forks will we need?
- Helping peg out the washing
- Doing up buttons
- Looking at numbers around us – on houses, car registration plates, pricing in shops.
- Helping with shopping – we need three oranges, two lemons, 6 carrots. How many altogether?
- Talking about ages.
- Use ordinal numbers (first, second, third) in going through steps of a recipe, having a race in the park or getting dressed in the morning.

Sets and Sorting

- Sorting and washing
- Tidying away toys – getting the toys in the right boxes.
- Talking about similarities and differences between objects or people.
- Sorting everyday objects.

Pattern

- Following different sequences
- Singing songs or telling stories with a clear pattern, sequence of repetition, e.g. Old MacDonald, Three Blind Mice.
- Looking at the patterns on buildings, e.g. windows, bricks in the wall
- Looking at the pattern on curtains, wallpaper, wrapping paper – children can make their own wrapping paper to wrap presents.
- Building with blocks.

Space and Shape

- Describing different containers and packets in the kitchen and at the supermarket.

- Finding shapes in your child's own environment.
- Doing jigsaw puzzles

Measuring

- Estimating how much is needed, for example how much bread to make 4 sandwiches, how much icing to ice a cake.
- Playing in the sandpit using different containers.
- Bath time or washing up time – pouring from one container to another, filling different containers, using containers with holes.
- Talking about events throughout the day in order of sequence.
- Drawing your child's attention to the clock – e.g. we will have lunch when the big hand is on the 12.