



Playing with numbers

Your child will benefit from being exposed to maths through play and other activities at home

Explore maths concepts through everyday activities

Explore numbers, shapes, patterns, size, directions, addition and subtraction using activities such as cooking, puzzles, books, songs, games and other family activities.

e.g. Ask your child to count cups of flour into a mixing bowl and demonstrate that a half-cup is less than a whole cup; explore shapes, patterns and symmetry through arts and craft projects.

Use the language of maths in everyday talk

As you go about your day, use informal language to describe mathematical ideas such as 'more than', 'smaller than', 'pointy', 'curved', 'under', 'next to', 'adding', and 'taking away'.

e.g. Your child's toys provide opportunities to describe shapes, sizes and locations. Ask questions and discuss activities such as ordering or grouping by size.

Use objects to develop an understanding of maths

Help your child play with objects and explain the maths ideas that they represent.

e.g. Use fingers to count; use three blocks to represent 'three'; play a game with counters of 'Who has most?'; ask your child to find different ways of building something with five wooden blocks.

Have extended conversations about maths

If your child is showing interest in a certain activity, help develop and extend their thinking by using open-ended questions, asking your child to explain, while you recap and clarify ideas.

e.g. Ask: 'How did you...?'; 'Why does this...?'; 'So you think that...?'; 'So you think we should...?'

Contact your child's early childhood educator for more information



This resource is developed from our partner, the Education Endowment Foundation's Guidance Report: [*Improving mathematics in the early years and key stage 1.*](#)

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