

Exploring Maths with children at home

Your child's daily life at home offers many practical opportunities to learn in a fun way about number, shape, space, sorting and matching i.e.

- setting places at the table – a cup for me, a cup for you
- playing with water provides opportunities to discuss measurements and quantities– full, empty, half, quarter, deep, shallow etc.
- steering the pram uses positional language
- helping to sort the washing, matching socks, big shirt / small shirt/tiny sock
- tidying up – putting similar items together, matching pairs
- matching lids to saucepans and containers

Cooking opens up a multitude of opportunities to help your child learn mathematical vocabulary. Whilst having fun they learn phrases like 'more than' or 'less than' than by weighing out ingredients. Your child will gain experience in counting and recognising numbers. If decorations are to be added to cakes, let your child add a specific number. Through the use of different cutters, children can learn the names of various 2D shapes. Learn measures by weighing; enough, not enough, more, too little, too much, heavy, light.



Children can cut foods up in to different sizes presenting lots of opportunities to discuss, quantities, size and shape.

You could make some bread dough. Children can discover quantities weighing the recipe and use mathematical language – short, long, fat, thin as they shape the dough. They can manipulate shapes of different dimensions with the dough – flat shapes, 3-d shapes.

Children often enjoy playing with their clothing and filling all sorts of things with sand and other objects.

Adults could provide a large collection of random socks and leave them in various places in the environment.



This playful situation could lead to a variety of mathematical conversations, depending on what the children choose to do. Counting may play a part (cupful's of sand to fill a sock/number of small dinosaurs to fill a sock) but equally, a sock filled with sand can lead to the use of interesting words to describe its shape. Using their own language to describe shapes children can talk about patterns and design (how a pair matches together)

They can develop the use of language to compare and contrast, for example, a sock filled with dinosaurs compared with a sock filled with sand. Children can count their actions. Saying one number for each object (e.g. when counting dinosaurs, cars, fairies into a sock)

They can estimate the number of objects and check by counting. Later on, children can begin to use vocabulary that involves in adding things together. Some children may be keen to pair the socks and/or sort them in various ways and you could set up scenarios to encourage this if that is where their interest lies, perhaps by involving characters from recently-read stories, rhymes or toys in the setting.

Imaginative Play can explore Maths. Let your child set the table for dinner can help develop counting skills, e.g. getting out three pieces of cutlery. Involve your child with household activities. After washing, allow your child to sort clothes into different colours, or different types of clothes, e.g. matching socks, big shirt / small shirt/tiny sock. This will help to develop a child's knowledge of shapes and colours.

