

Years 2-6: Supporting Your Child in Maths

Maths is part of our everyday lives at home and in the community, providing many varied opportunities for discussion and conversation. Children enjoy hearing, learning and practising new vocabulary which in turn consolidates and reinforces their understanding. This is where parents play a very important and vital role in supporting their child as they make the connections between home and the concepts and skills they are learning at school.

Junior/Upper Primary

Number and Algebra

- Play games – Dominoes, Snakes & Ladders, Rumikub, Numero, Monopoly, Yahtzee
- Agree regular pocket money with your child. Discuss the different coins. Encourage your child to keep a record of their money and save up for items they would particularly like to buy.
- Using 'freebie catalogues'. Encourage your child to find the cheapest item on a page, the most expensive item, the difference between the cheapest and most expensive item, encourage value for money: cost v amount.
- Use playing cards to practise times tables, number bonds, doubling, addition and subtraction. See tip sheet: Card Games to Develop Mental Maths Fluency
- Use Dot to Dot drawings to reinforce number order – lots of free printables available on-line (1-20, 1-50, jumps of 2, 5 and 10, times tables)

Measurement and Geometry

- Involve your child in food preparation and baking. Encourage your child to read the recipe to work out amounts of ingredients required; which measurement (ml, L, kg, g, tsp, tbsps) and measuring containers to use; measure ingredients accurately and work through a recipe in the correct order
- Using 'freebie catalogues', work out the cost of the recipe
- Link with time: keep a track of time for baking, boiling etc... Start and finish times, as well as how long to cook
- Ask your child regularly to tell you the time on analogue and digital clocks. Allow your child to wear a watch; display a clock in their bedroom.
- Encourage your child to use timetables to work out the time of the next train/bus when using public transport. Discuss departure and arrival times to help work out the duration of a journey
- Have a calendar visible at home: discuss when family birthdays, special occasions are. How many days until...? How many sleeps...?
- Look at flags from different countries- discuss which are symmetrical.
- Position and location – use vocabulary to describe position: left, right, behind, in front, next to..... encourage play obstacle courses and direct a friend through the obstacle course
- Play barrier games e.g.,: Battleships – reinforces use of coordinates and probability by making the child explain the positioning and shapes their partner can't see, but must replicate

Statistics and Probability

- Use language of probability to discuss and predict the weather: likelihood of rain, sunshine, storm etc.