

Ways to support your child with mathematics at home

Year One

Play simple counting games such as:

snakes and ladders

counting buttons

choose two dominoes and count the total number of spots

Play simple ordering games such as:

choose ten buttons and order them by size from smallest to largest

from a pack of cards take out the Jacks, the Queens and the Kings and shuffle up the numbered cards. Choose any ten of them and put them in order

Play simple pattern-making games such as:

Make patterns out of ten tiddlywinks such as: 2 red, 1 blue, 2 red 1 blue...

sort a collection of buttons, shells or leaves by colour or by size

Year Two

Number - Money

Look in your kitchen cupboards and choose 6 different items each costing less than £1. Make a price label for each one, e.g. 39p, 78p. Shuffle the labels. Then ask your child to do one or more of these.

Place the labels **in order**, starting with the lowest.

Say which price is an **odd** number and which is an **even** number.

Add 9p to each price in their head.

Take 20p from each price in their head.

Say which coins to use to pay exactly for each item.

Choose any two of the items and find their total cost.

Work out the change from £1 for each item.

How much?

Once a week, tip out the small change from a purse. Count it up with your child.

Going shopping

Reading price tags, find the most expensive and the cheapest

Counting items into the basket

Finding and counting coins

Comparing weights – what are they measured in?

Can you find an item that is heavier than 1kg?

Number recognition - Out and About

Recognise bus numbers and car number plates

Look at road signs and read distances

How much further is it to your destination?

Number plate hunt. Who can find a 3-digit number?

Add the numbers up.

Look for numbers in words e.g. Twenty-seven

Pasta subtraction

For this game you need a dice and some dried pasta or buttons.

Start with a pile of pasta in the middle. Count them.

Throw a dice. Say how many pieces of pasta will be left if you subtract that number.

Then take the pieces of pasta away and check if you were right!

Keep playing.

The person to take the last piece wins!

Food!

Can you cut your toast into 4 pieces?

Can you cut it into triangles?

Setting the table. Counting the right number of plates etc. How many more do we need?

Can you make shapes/ patterns out of the knives and forks. Can you put them in the right place in the drawers?

Helping with the cooking by measuring and counting ingredients.

Setting the timer.

Positional language at dinner time: what is on the rice, where are the carrots etc?

Doing the washing

Counting in 2s – matching shoes

Sorting by colour and size.

Matching/pairing up socks.

Find four shoes that are different sizes. Can you put them in order?

On a car journey/walking...

Recognising bus numbers

Number plate hunt. Who can find a 7? Add the numbers up.

Comparing door numbers

Counting – how many lampposts on the way to school?

Time

What day is it yesterday, today, tomorrow?

Use timers, phones and clocks to measure short periods of time.

Count down 10/ 20 seconds to get to the table/ into bed etc.

Recognising numbers on the clock. If you cover a number, what number was missing?

Going shopping

Reading price tags

Counting items into the basket

Finding and counting coins

Comparing weights – which is heavier?

Measuring

Are you taller than a ...?

Marking height on the wall.

Cut hand shapes out of paper. How many hands long is the couch? How long is the table? Which is longer?

Who has the biggest hands in our family?

How many steps from the gate to the front door?

Shapes

Cut a potato into shapes (circles, triangle etc). Use with paint to make pictures and patterns.

Cut out shapes from coloured paper/ newspaper and arrange into pictures.

Shape hunt: Can you find a square in your house? (windows etc), a circle?