



## Maths at Home

### Top tips for parents and carers to have fun with maths

#### Use Maths talk every day

Talking about maths is really important for your child's mathematical development. Whenever you have the opportunity, try to include maths talk in their lives. This is easily done when they are playing with physical objects as you can reinforce counting skills. For example, how many pennies are you holding? Or what shape is that object? When counting, reinforce the last number they counted as this can help their mathematical development further, for example "one, two three... three cars," Just like children's TV shows do.

Two easy concepts to develop with your children are doubling/halving and adding/subtracting. Again, you could use physical objects such as food at dinner time to reinforce this. For example:

"If I doubled the number of chicken nuggets on your plate right now, how many would you have?"

"If I ate half of the peas on your plate, how many would you have left?"

"If we added all of my chicken nuggets to your chicken nuggets, how many would we have altogether?"

#### Play maths games together

Games are a great way to bond with your children, but also many games use mathematical and logical skills that your children will need in later life. Games like jigsaw puzzles help children to develop logical and spatial awareness skills. Games such as snakes and ladders enable the children to count the rolls of the dice and move the counter, which helps their counting skills. Other games that many help develop your child's maths skills are darts, scrabble and chess. Get playing!

## Use open questions

You can support your child's learning by getting to grips with the math they learn, like grid method and bar modelling. When supporting your child with their home learning, try asking prompting questions such as:

"Why did you write that down?"

"How did you get that answer?"

"What method did you use?"

"What could you draw to help you?"

This will help your child fully understand the maths methods they're using and reinforce independent learning.

## Times tables: Practise, Practise, Practise!

As everybody knows, it's essential for children to learning their times tables in order to access harder maths questions. This is easy to practise with children – sneak it in when they're bored! Make car journeys go by faster, or distract them on the bus by asking times tables questions. Challenge them to say their times tables backwards.

## Great British Maths Bake Off!

Cooking and baking allows for so many opportunities with maths. Encourage your children to help you weigh out ingredients using scales. Discuss proportions of ingredients using dividing, doubling and halving. Allow the children to set timers and use analogue clocks to keep an eye on how long your cake needs to be cooked for. When your delicious treats are cooked, talk about sizes (bigger/smaller) and decorate using fractions ( $\frac{1}{3}$  of sprinkles).

## Play to their love of technology

There's no substitute for personal support with your child's maths, but when you're busy – or even just for a change – giving the children short bursts of online practice can be really helpful.

We're spoiled for choice with maths apps on the market and most really engage children. Mathletics allows the children to practise their fluency but there are plenty more out there! If you find your child needs to be challenged themselves more, explore websites such as NRICH (<http://nrich.maths.org/>).