

Mathematics Guide for Parents - EYFS and Key stage 1

These ideas will help your child to develop their confidence in counting and in recognising and using numbers. They will also help your child to explore shape, patterns and measurements in real-life contexts.

Things to try with your child

Talk together

Talk with your child about maths to build their confidence and help them see how maths is used in everyday life.



Cooking:

- 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?

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?

In the Street:

- 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?
- 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?

Play games

Play games that involve number and counting, like bingo, dice, dominoes and card games. Play around with magnetic numbers to help your child’s number recognition. Board games like Snakes and Ladders are also great for practising counting forwards and backwards.

Games:

- Putting cards into piles
- Jigsaws (you can make your own by cutting up a magazine picture)
- Snap (matching pairs) or Happy Families (collect 4 of a kind)
- Snakes and ladders or other simple dice games.
- Adding numbers on two dice.
- Bingo, with numbers or shapes
- Hopscotch



Explore shape

Point out different shapes around you whenever possible.



Shape:

- Ask how many objects in the kitchen are square or triangular
- Ask your child to describe the shape to you.
- Draw shapes on your child's back and ask if they can guess what shape it is by feel.
- 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 ...

Find Patterns

Look for repeating patterns on curtains, wallpaper, or clothing.

Ask your child:

- 'Can you see a pattern? Tell me about it. What will come next?'
- Start patterns with blocks, beads, playing cards or toys and encourage your child to build on the pattern to make it longer.
- Look for patterns in time together (e.g. seasons, months or daily routines) and talk about what you notice: 'We always go to the supermarket on a Monday. We go swimming on a Tuesday.'
- Listen for patterns in songs and clap or dance the rhythm.

Position words

- Have a treasure hunt. Follow clues like 'over the bench', 'under the tree', 'next to the bush'.
- Draw a map to show the route you took.
- Read stories with position words like The Three Little Bears, We are going on a Bear Hunt and Rosie’s Walk.

<p>Practice number skills</p> <p>As your child's understanding and knowledge of number develops, ask them to count in 2s, 5s and 10s.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sort objects, making groups of 3, 4, 5 or 6 things. Then ask them to make '6' in as many ways as they can (e.g. 1 and 5; 4 and 2; 0 and 6). • Sort objects into groups of 2, 5 and 10 and count in multiples • Play matching games with number fridge magnets and objects. Match the fridge magnet to the correct number of things (e.g., the '4' magnet with 4 objects). • Ask your child to look at dominoes and find all the ones that have a certain total: 'Find all the dominoes that have 10 dots altogether.' Then ask them to find a domino with more or less than that number of dots.
<p>Measuring</p> <p>Help your child to practise using a ruler for drawing straight lines and measuring. Make a picture using straight lines. Help your child to hold the ruler carefully as they draw.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you taller than a ...? • Marking height on the wall. • Who has the biggest hands in our family? • How many steps from the gate to the front door? • Play 'How Long?' or 'How wide?' Work together to measure the length or height of everyday objects in the house (in metres or centimetres). • Point out the starting and finishing number on the ruler and read the measurement together. Help your child line the object up with the 0 on the ruler or tape when they measure. • Order objects by height or length and use the words 'longer/taller than', 'shorter than', 'longest/tallest' and 'shortest'. • Choose some items from your kitchen cupboard. Weigh them together and put them in order. Use the words 'heavier than', 'lighter than', 'heaviest' and 'lightest'.

Internet maths games:

www.mathszone.co.uk

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/>

http://www.familylearning.org.uk/online_math_games.html

www.sesamestreet.org