

Maths is everywhere

There are lots of ways of supporting children's mathematical learning at home linked to everyday activities. These ideas are arranged roughly in age order, starting with ideas that will work for toddlers up to age five.

Getting Up:

- Talk about which order to get dressed in, which items do you need to put on first, next, last
- Sort out clothes together and talk about which things are too small or too big



- Hide and find matching pairs of objects e.g. socks, gloves, shoes
- Look at the time on watches and clocks and talk about whether it is time to get up; have breakfast etc.

Meal and Snack Times:

- Finding and counting matching cups and plates. Are there enough? How many more do we need?
- Cutting and sharing e.g. sandwiches, toast, pizza. How many pieces? Have we got enough? How many more do we need? Can you cut into squares/triangles? Is your sandwich thin or thick?
- Helping to read a recipe and weighing out the ingredients

Packing Away and Tidying Up:

- Will all the toys/books fit in the box?
- How many pieces are missing e.g. from jigsaws
- Put items on the top, middle, bottom, first, second, third shelf
- Give children a five minute warning before tidying up (so they begin to learn concept of time)



Play Ideas:

- Singing/saying number songs and rhymes, particularly finger rhymes
- Reading stories such as 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'
- Sorting sets of objects such as buttons and coins e.g. Can you sort out all the 1p coins
- Playing with a calculator
- Using your own footprints cut out from newspaper to make a trail to the door
- Using food packets and boxes to build tower
- Filling and emptying cups and containers
- Filling and counting spaces in egg/chocolate boxes e.g. with bits of dough
- In the bath – counting number of objects needed to make boat sink. Dropping in coins and asking children to find
- Making and rolling out dough
- Cutting up pictures of objects into two/three pieces, hiding them and asking children to find matching parts
- Treasure Hunt – Hide objects e.g. pegs. Ask children to find e.g. six of the same colour
- Completing puzzles
- Sorting out and playing a game of Dominoes
- Playing card games such as Snap
- Using a dice to play board games, such as Snakes and Ladders



- Useful online games and activities for children to play with parents
 - www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies
 - www.youtube.com
 - www.twinkl.co.uk