

St Paul's C. of E. Primary School and Nursery



Parents and Carers Information Sheet 3: Maths

Why is maths important?

- It's everywhere - shapes, sizes, patterns, numbers are all around us.
- It's vital for problem solving.
- It helps us to think logically and critically.
- Being confident to count can establish a good start in maths.
- Children apply mathematical understanding to help them with their daily play and activities such as balancing and fitting blocks together as well as in role play activities.
- Maths is needed in everyday situations such as telling the time in order to arrive at school or nursery on time.

How can you support your child's mathematical understanding?

- Talk about the everyday maths you are using. E.g. counting the number of plates for meal times or sharing food.
- Make repeating patterns together.
- Count sets of everyday objects or actions together as this will move children on from counting by rote.
- Let your child see you counting as this will help with ordering numbers.
- Use maths vocabulary such as 'first', 'next', 'last' and words associated with size.
- Sing counting songs and rhymes; hold up the correct number of fingers or use toys to correspond with the numbers in the songs.
- Involve your child in solving problems. (e.g. "I wonder how many cups of water will be in this full jug.")
- Model using positional language such as 'on', 'under', 'next to', 'behind', 'in front'.
- Encourage and support practical activities such as construction activities with a wide range of shapes and objects.
- Let your child explore and talk about the numbers on a calculator or phone or that they see out and about.

Follow your child's lead.

Your child will develop in their own way and at their own pace.

"The only way to learn about mathematics is to do mathematics."

Paul Halmos

Ideas to try at home:

Cook together

There are lots of maths opportunities - counting spoons weighing, spotting numbers.

Play dominoes

Children will begin to recognise the number of spots without counting. This is called subitising.

Play board games

How many spots on the dice, counting spaces as they move etc.

Bath time maths

Talk about capacity and size when filling plastic cups. Discover which holds more water.

Sorting and organising

Get your child to help sort everyday items e.g. tinned food, old clothes. Count them after sorting.

Make pictures out of everyday objects. E.g.

recyclable materials, mats, cloths, natural materials.

Ideas to try at out and about:

Play Shape 'I spy'.

Focus on objects nearby - can your child spot the

Go on a number walk.

Look for numbers on vehicles, signs, front doors and road signs as you go on a walk.

Compare the length and weight of things.

You could try leaves, sticks, stones or logs.

Use natural objects to make marks. Use sticks in mud, gravel, snow or sand.

Collect natural objects

When you get home sort and count the objects collected.

Make an obstacle course

Use positional language when talking about how your child will use the course.

Please supervise your child during their play.

Remember small objects can be choking hazards. Ensure that hands are thoroughly washed after playing outside and with messy resources inside.

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