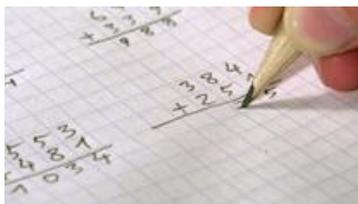


## Helping Your Child With Maths



Try to make maths as much fun as possible - games, puzzles and jigsaws are a great way to start. It's also important to show how we use maths skills in our everyday lives and to involve your child in this.

Identifying problems and solving them can also help your child develop maths skills. If you see him or her puzzling over something, talk about the problem and try to work out the solution together.

Don't shy away from maths if you didn't like it at school. Try to find new ways to enjoy the subject with your child.

Ways to help your child enjoy and learn maths at home:

- Point out the different shapes to be found around your home.
- Look together for numbers on street signs and car registration plates.
- Take your child shopping and talk about the quantities of anything you buy.
- Let your child handle money and work out how much things cost.
- Sing counting songs and use counting in meaningful ways in games, such as Hide-and-Seek. Counting games, rhymes and songs exist in every culture.
- Teach your child how to read the time and encourage them to use a clock or a watch to know how much time it takes to get to school, eat meals, get ready for bed or play a game.
- Look at the pattern of house numbers as you walk along - are they odd or even numbers? What house number will be next?
- Children can count anything! Pennies, buttons, pasta, trees, cars, building bricks, sweets, apples - encourage them to count things wherever they are. Give them jobs at the supermarket e.g. putting 6 carrots in a bag; 3 tins of beans, etc - be creative!
- What can your child do in exactly one minute? Hop on one leg? Tidy their toys away? Clear the table? Stare without blinking? See if they can count the seconds in their head.
- Play 'I'm thinking of a Number'. Begin by giving clues such as "My number is more than 50 but less than 100; it is an odd number; it is two more than 37", etc. As your child becomes more confident, they can try to find out by asking questions eg. Is it odd or even? A multiple of 5? More or less than 30? This can be done anywhere - driving in the car, walking to school etc.