

Mathematics

These are our 'Top Tips' to help you enjoy your child's journey of learning together...

- ★ Share number rhymes and numbers in books with your child. Such as "1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive, 6,7,8,9,10 then I let him go again"...singing can consolidate thinking!
- ★ Point out numbers in the world around, on houses, buses, birthday cards and clocks. By doing this, you are helping your child to become familiar with the shapes of numbers and the sounds of their names, and also the way numbers are used in many different ways.
- ★ Help your child to set the table for a certain number of people and fasten buttons when getting dressed. These are basic examples of everyday activities that form the basis of counting.
- ★ Counting the number of items that have been sorted for washing, for example, how many shirts, how many towels? This will give children practice in counting groups of objects. Pair socks and sort for colour.
- ★ Providing and sharing food amongst the family gives lots of opportunities for your children to count, add and subtract numbers. Help your child to count, for example, how many apples you need so there is enough for everybody in the family to have one, how many biscuits are left now two have been eaten, or how many plates are needed for everyone if two friends are coming to tea?
- ★ Help your child to realise that the world around is full of patterns, such as the way the points on the leaves of a particular tree are arranged, or the way stones are laid on the pavement.
- ★ Give your child the names of two and three dimensional shapes he sees around him, like the square tiles on the kitchen floor, the cylinder biscuit packet, made up of circle shaped biscuits, and the rectangle sides of a cereal box.
- ★ Let children weigh themselves, on bathroom scales at home, or weighing scales in the chemist. By doing this they become familiar with the terms that we use to measure weight.
- ★ Use fun at bath time to let your child become familiar with the idea of volume: how much water will the soap dish hold? How many tumblers will fill the plastic basin with out it over-flowing?
- ★ Introduce children to the language and measurement of time, by talking to them about things that happen at a particular day or time of day. Some children can recognise the time at which they go to bed, or the time at which they are allowed to watch a particular television programme.

The Early Years Foundation Stage recognises 7 different areas of learning. **Mathematics development** is one of the 4 Specific Areas.

For children to grasp mathematical ideas and concepts at this age, they need very practical experiences in everyday life. Through maths, we are asked to answer questions about how many, how big, how much, how far and how long. These questions are part of our everyday lives. We need them when buying things, following a recipe, telling the time or checking sell-by dates. As adults, we are so familiar with questions like these we can often take them for granted, but children need to be deliberately introduced to them.

The Early Learning Goals:

(This is the level of attainment which children should be expected to attain at the end of the foundation stage, age 5.)

Number: Children count reliably with number from 1 - 20, place them in order and say which number is one more or one less than a given number. Using quantities and objects they add and subtract 2 single digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer. They solve problems, including doubling, halving and sharing.

Shape, Space and Measure: Children use everyday language to talk about size, weight and capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities and objects and to solve problems. They recognise, create and describe patterns. They explore characteristics of everyday shapes and use mathematical language to describe them.

More information about the Early Years Foundation Stage is available from the foundation years website: www.foundationyears.org.uk.

Other useful websites:

<http://www.nurseryrhymes4u.com>

<http://www.familylearning.org.uk>

<http://www.sesamestreet.org/>

<http://nrich.maths.org/early-years> is

Yellow Dot is a small Group of Children's Nurseries based in Hampshire. Its hard working team have achieved amazing results with all the settings acknowledged by Ofsted to have Outstanding qualities! Thank you for choosing Yellow Dot to care for your child.

