

## **Reception and KS1: Useful tips for parents to support maths at home**

In 2011, Ofsted stated that parental engagement has a clear impact of achievement in school for pupils. They also noted how children have higher attainment levels and are more likely to achieve academically when parents are involved with their education.

This resource contains some ideas of how you, the parent, can help: engage the children with maths at home, and improve their outlook on mathematics in general.

We know it can be difficult to know, as a parent, how to start supporting your child with maths at home. We understand that the way the maths curriculum is structured and taught may differ from what some parents remember from their own school experience. Consequently, some parents may not feel confident about how best to support their child with maths at home. We encourage a positive mindset towards maths which helps to foster engagement in the subject.

Teachers often link maths learning back to the real-world, when it is appropriate. There are many opportunities to develop your child's maths skills in real-life. For example, in the supermarket, ask them which item is cheaper and to explain how they know. When asking your child about their day, use vocabulary such as earlier, later, before and after to help develop their sense of time.

We hope this resource is helpful and gives some useful ideas about how to support your child's maths learning at home. If you would like to discuss your child's maths learning, please contact your child's maths teacher.

## Tips to engage with your child's maths learning:

- A positive mindset

Do you ever hear yourself saying, "I'm really bad at maths," or, "I just didn't get maths at school"? Children can pick up on any negativity towards particular subjects from the adults in their lives. Unfortunately, this can be a real barrier to learning. We encourage parents to try and use positive language around their children when discussing maths. If a child makes a mistake, it can be turned in to a learning opportunity:

\*Where did you make the mistake?

\*How can you improve it?

- Use maths talk every day

Talking about maths is really important for your child's mathematical development.

Whenever you have the opportunity, try to include maths talk in their lives. This could be done when they are playing with physical objects as their counting skills can be reinforced by asking:

\* How many pennies are you holding?

\*If I give you 3 more pennies, how many will you have altogether?

When counting, reinforce the last number they counted as this can help their mathematical development further, for example "One, two three...three cars."

Two concepts to develop with your child are doubling/halving and adding/subtracting. Again, you could use physical objects such as food to reinforce this. It's as simple as asking your child to count the number of grapes they have been given (or any other food!) and then you can ask them things like:

- "If I doubled the number of chicken nuggets on your plate right now, how many would you have?"

- "If I ate half the peas on your plate for you, how many would you have left?"

- "If we added all of my chicken nuggets to your chicken nuggets, how many would we have altogether

Playing dice and card games will reinforce your child's maths learning and understanding.

When looking at different objects, questions could be asked about the shapes:

\*How many sides does the shape have?

\*What is the shape called?

Spotting numbers in the environment is also useful. For example, can they read door numbers or numbers on car registration plates? Ask them what is one more/one less/ten more/less than the number.

Encourage telling the time using both digital and analogue clocks.

Ask what day/month/year it is.

What time do you get up? What time do you go to bed? What time does school start? What time does school end?

- Develop memory skills

The younger generation now have little need to memorise things such as phone numbers anymore. Try to encourage your child to memorise your phone number to help develop their memory skills. This can be turned in to a game:

\*The second number is three more than 5. What is the number?

\*What is the sum of all of the digits added together?

Encouraging your child to know their date of birth, family birthdays and ages helps them to understand time:

\*Who is older/younger?

\*By how many years is \_\_\_\_ older/younger than \_\_\_\_?

\*How old will you be in two years?

\*How old were you three years ago?

- Play maths games together

Games are a great way to bond with your child; many games use mathematical and logical skills that your child will need later in life.

\*A jigsaw puzzle helps children to develop logical and spatial awareness.

\*Snakes and Ladders enables children to count the rolls of the dice, the numbers on the dice and the moves made on the board.

\*Connect 4 also supports logic in terms of where the best position is to place the disc.

\*Children in Reception and KS1 have access to NumBots

<https://play.numbots.com/#/account/school-login/69476>

- Watch out for shapes

When you look around, everything is made out of shapes. Encourage your child to learn the names of shapes as you play with them, chat to them and are out and about with them.

\*A dice is a cube that has square faces.

\*Bathroom/kitchen tiles may be laid out in a rectangular pattern.

\*The steering wheel in a car is circular.

- Developing understanding of money

\*Encourage your child to recognise and identify different coins and notes.

\*Count change together.

\*How many 1ps make 10p? How many 20ps do I have?

