

# Into maths...



## Maths is everywhere

Maths is everywhere, and learning about it doesn't happen just at school. Numbers and shapes, measuring and solving problems are all needed for simple tasks like measuring out washing powder, pairing socks, setting the table, and cutting a pizza into equal portions. Young children need help to understand what maths is used for, and you can do this by showing them how numbers, size, measures, shape and pattern are important in your daily life.

### Maths in and around the house

- Set the table, one fork, one knife, one cup for each person.
- Talk about which order to get dressed in, which items to put on first, next and last?
- Sort the washing into categories - whites, colours, towels. Use the scoop to measure the washing powder.
- Sort out clothes - which are the right size and which are too big or too small?
- Match pairs of things: shoes, socks, gloves, PJs...
- Make a shopping list for the person who is going shopping. Check off the items when they return.
- Make sandwiches for lunch. Wrap them in foil to keep them fresh.
- Go on a number hunt around the house - phone, TV remote, clocks, cooker...
- Make a birthday card for a friend and writing the number of their birthday on the card. Wrap a present.
- Measure ingredients for a cake. Set the temperature and timer on the oven.
- On your daily walk, look for shapes in the environment. Each day look for a different shape – circles, squares, rectangles, triangles. On a different day, look for numbers on doors, buses, post box, clocks, road signs...

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## Sing Number Songs and Rhymes:

- 1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive
- Five little ducks went swimming one day
- Five cheeky monkeys jumping on the bed
- Five little speckled frogs
- Five fat sausages sizzling in the pan
- Ten in the bed and the little one said
- Ten green bottles

## Games:

- Play card games such as Snap, Go Fish!
- Play hopscotch.
- Make a set of dominoes using pictures, spots or numbers. Challenge a family member to a game.
- Use a dice to play board games, such as Snakes and Ladders.
- Play Frustration, Connect Four, Twister...
- Make your own skittle game using plastic drinks bottles. Remember to keep score.
- Make your own Bingo game with numbers up to 20. Take turns to be the bingo caller.
- Play noughts and crosses.

# Taking it further



## Set up and run your own shop

*Things to collect and find for your shop...*

- Something to display your goods on.
- Items to sell – these can be toys, jewellery, handbags, or real food items such as small tins, variety pack cereal boxes, empty milk cartons and drink bottles, packets of dried goods...
- Purses and wallets.
- A suitable till or container to keep the money in.
- Real coins if possible, credit cards, chip and pin machine, calculator...
- Weighing scales for loose items.
- Toy shopping baskets and trolleys if you have them.
- Carrier bags (5p and 10p versions) and Bags for Life.
- Zip lock food bags, freezer bags.
- Telephone.
- Badges for the staff.
- Clipboards, stock lists and pencils/pens...
- Sign and notices.

# Let's get started...



- Collect items to sell. Label each item with a price.
- Think of a name for your shop. Make a large sign.
- Stack the shelves. Sort the goods into groups to make it easier for your customers.
- Label all the items with a price.
- Display your opening times.
- Appoint your staff – make sure everyone is clear about their new roles and responsibilities. Make name badges for them.
- Organise the grand opening of the new shop. Invite a VIP (family member) to cut the ribbon and declare it open.
- Welcome your customers with a smile and good manners.
- Serve your customers. Take money and give change.
- Accept payments with cheques and credit cards.
- Keep the shop clean and tidy.
- Weigh fruit and vegetables and bag them.
- Keep the shop well stocked. Order new stock when your stock levels become low. Take delivery of new stock and add it to your shelves.
- Use play dough or salt dough to make more food items to sell.
- At the end of each day, count the money in the till and restock your shelves.
- Compare your prices with your competitors.
- Think of some special deals to draw the customers in. Make posters to advertise your special offers.
- Take telephone orders from customers and make home deliveries.