

Kitchen Maths

A T H O M E

SETTING THE TABLE



Counting how many people, how many plates/cups/bowls needed, laying the items needed on the table for dinner, are all ways to develop Maths skills. Counting, Shape and Space, and organisation skills are all in play as children undertake this task. Not to mention social development as they show that they can contribute to the family by helping!

PUTTING DISHES AWAY

Children can practise sorting skills as they stack plates, bowls, cups and cutlery after washing. This helps develop skills needed for Maths Data Collection activities as well as building early language skills of categorisation, sorting and organising.



PREPARING FOOD



Children explore measuring, weight, sorting as they help prepare food. Not to mention the fine motor skill development that takes place when chopping, peeling and grating. Also there is the opportunity to make connections with health and wellbeing as they choose healthy foods.

POURING DRINKS

Capacity is being explored as children pour - finding out how much liquid can be held in different shaped cups, jugs and bottles. Fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination and confidence are all being developed as children try this tricky task. Be prepared for spills - that's part of the process as children make judgements.



SHOPPING LISTS



Creating shopping lists and buying the groceries are another way that children can explore 'How many?' There are also connections to literacy if they are invited to create the list by mark-making, drawing or using invented spelling. When shopping, they are seeing categorisation modelled at best, as they explore the aisles and recognise how items are sorted in groups - fruits, dairy etc.

Kitchen Maths 2

A T H O M E

MAKE SOME PLAYDOUGH



Making playdough gives an opportunity to talk about measuring and weight as children make the dough.

2 cups plain flour - 2 tablespoons vegetable oil - 1/2 cup salt - 2 tablespoons cream of tartar - 1 to 1.5 cups boiling water - food colouring
Mix the flour, salt, cream of tartar and oil in a large mixing bowl. Add food colouring to the boiling water, then into the dry ingredients. Stir continuously until it becomes a sticky, combined dough. Allow it to cool down then take it out of the bowl and knead it vigorously for a couple of minutes until all of the stickiness has gone. Keep in an airtight container.

BANANA CHALLENGE

Each person in the family has a banana. The challenge is to see who can cut the banana into the most pieces! Aside from counting and comparing numbers, fine motor skills will also be developed! Ready...steady...GO!



FRUIT PRINTING



Explore 'halves' as children cut selected pieces of fruit/veg into two equal pieces (apples, kiwi, pears, potatoes, onion). Now you can choose to eat...or print! Dip your cuts into paint and get creative. Maybe you can even print a pattern!

CUTLERY CHAOS!

Tidy up a drawer and provide an opportunity for sorting! Sorting the cutlery into groups is great way for children to begin exploring sets... Another tidy-up matching activity is to have children match up lids to tubs- dig out all those tins and plastic boxes and let them explore size and shape as they match.



PASTA NECKLACES



Counting and patterning are Maths skills that can be explored as your child threads a pasta necklace. Use dried pasta tubes of different sizes and get threading.

You can dye the pasta to make it more interesting in the following way: Pour your pasta into a container that has a tight-fitting lid in a small bowl, mix a dollop of food colouring with a teaspoon of vinegar. Place the lid on and shake. Pour on to a baking rack, and set in a warm sunny place to dry (may need to be left overnight). Keep in a sealed container.