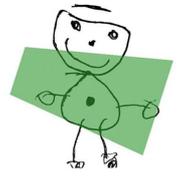




A parent/carer's guide to...

Mathematics - Part 1



Caverstede | Early Years Centre

Counting is a key skill for young children to learn, and there is much that you can do at home to help your child grasp some of the mathematical ideas that they will use for the rest of their lives. The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2014, states :

'Mathematics involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures.'

Within the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, Mathematics is sub divided into the following specific areas of learning and development:

- Numbers
- Shape, space and measures

Supporting maths at home

Here are some suggestions of activities that you can do with your child at home to develop their early mathematical skills.

Routines:

Use routine times such as bedtime and bath time to develop mathematical ideas. For example,

- Count the buttons on shirts or blouses as you fasten or unfasten them on your child's clothes.
- Count the number of Velcro straps on your child's shoes as they put them on and take them off.
- Compare the size and shape of different containers in the bath and the heaviness of containers when filled with water.
- Use tidy up time to sort items e.g. 'put the trains in the green tub, put the cars in the red box.'

Mealtimes:

Encourage your child to help prepare meals. For example, let them:

- Help you weigh ingredients.
- Find the best size of pot for cooking potatoes.
- Ensure that everyone has a knife, fork and spoon or cup and plate.



Outdoors:

Look out for ways to talk about mathematics when you are outdoors, such as going to the park or to the supermarket. For example,

- Draw their attention to numbers and shapes in shops, on packaging, on houses, or on road signs and buses.
- Count trees, cars or recycling bins.

Other activities:

- Play board games with your child .
- If your child goes upstairs count the steps together.

