

Maths Through Play

Here are a few ways in which you can use play to learn at home:

- ✓ Learn about money as they go shopping
- ✓ Become aware of numbers as they count the stairs to bed
- ✓ Start to understand the concept of time as they become familiar with the routine of their day - wash, dress, breakfast etc.
- ✓ Using sand/pasta/rice and containers, can develop mathematical concepts and language, e.g. heavy, light, empty, full, big, little
- ✓ Make shapes and patterns using toys and everyday objects
- ✓ Provide boxes and materials of different shapes and sizes to compare weight and quantity
- ✓ Simple activities like letting your child set the table for dinner can help develop counting skills e.g. getting out three pieces of cutlery.
- ✓ After washing, allow your child to sort clothes into different colours, or different types of clothes, e.g. t-shirts and socks. This will help to develop a child's knowledge of shapes and colours.
- ✓ Enjoy stories and rhymes with your child that has a mathematical element, e.g. "One-two, Buckle my Shoe" "Incy Wincey Spider".
- ✓ Develop fine motor skills through physical activity, e.g. Sorting out a jigsaw, Threading beads (patterns)
- ✓ Block play or playing with toy cars can help to develop sequencing by encouraging your child to sequence according to size, colour, use (e.g. bike, car, lorry)
- ✓ Playing with different sized blocks can help to develop an understanding of weight and dimensions and 3D shapes.
- ✓ Tidying toys away allows children to sort into different sizes and colours.
- ✓ Play spot the number - number plates, buses, house numbers.
- ✓ Dice games - snakes and ladders, ludo,

Mathematical Language

- You can help to promote mathematical language such as - heavy, light, empty, full, long, short, tall, big, small in relevant contexts
- Look at your home environment to develop language, especially positional words - put the small teddy in front of big box, behind, in, on
- When racing develop mathematical language such as - first, second, third.
- Asking questions will help extend their learning and ensure that they have understood. Getting them to explain their thinking.

Most importantly make it fun and relevant to your child ☺