

In the home

- ◆ There are many day to day activities you can use to reinforce Mathematical concepts, from the obvious number puzzles ,to everyday activities such as counting the stairs as you climb, telling the time and looking at numbers on clocks and calendars, dressing:-highlight colours, sizes, textures...washing/ bathing:-- capacity—filling and pouring with jugs and cups, making patterns and comparing sizes with bath toys etc. Setting a table helps with one to one correspondence:- giving everyone one knife, one fork and one spoon and sorting cutlery or socks into containers or drawers to help with finding the "same" and "different" and looking for other similarities and differences, such as colour, shape, size and pattern.
- ◆ Being creative in the kitchen is fun and also offers many learning opportunities. Even young children can help to measure, weigh, stir and pour and through these activities, children learn quite naturally to count, measure, add and estimate. Children can help to make a shopping list and go to the shops to buy what they need. This can help with early money skills as well as simple tessellation, as they problem solve the best way to pack items into a bag or box. Items can be held on children's knees to feel the weight and shape. Children can match eggs to egg box holes etc.



Very sensory learners/ physical limitations If

your child needs a sensory approach to learning and requires a high level of support, there are still many activities you can do outside of school.



- ◆ Our pupils at Fox Wood are exposed to Mathematical learning in a number of ways including Maths massage, where music and body awareness are linked to basic concepts, such as having 2 arms, 1 head, 10 fingers, feeling patterns on the body:- fast and slow, heavy and light, loud and quiet...experiencing sound patterns, anticipating, following instructions. ... and through the use of sensory toys, concepts such as big and small , for example, can be explored using balloons and a pump



Speak to your child's class teacher about which Maths activities are used in class and which your child engages with best or most often. Many of our classes use the Numicon system and our PMLD classes have dance massage and other approaches. We are more than happy to provide more information and ideas for resources if you would like to know.



Please get in touch if we can be of any further help!

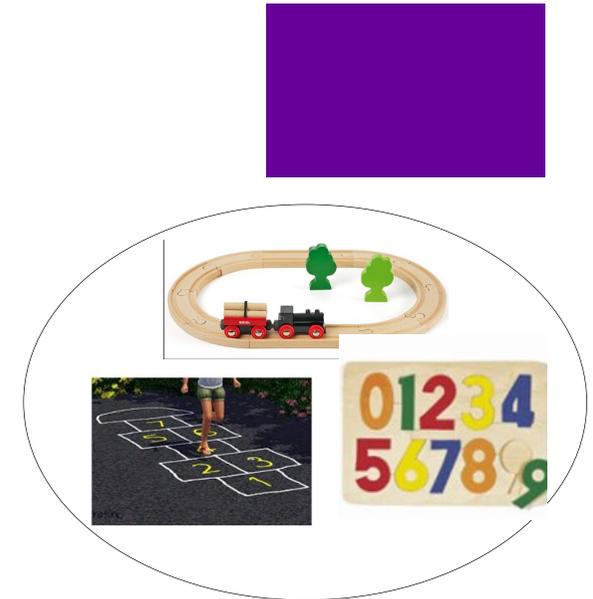


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Maths at Home



Fox Wood School



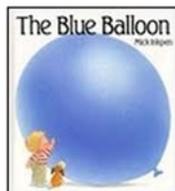
Early Maths skills

You can help your child to learn early Maths skills by building on their natural curiosity and having fun together. There is no need to purchase anything expensive, indeed, most of the suggested activities can be done using natural objects such as pine cones and toys that your child will probably already have and be familiar with, such as blocks, counters and small cars.

Where do I start?: Start from the interests

of your child! Enjoy numbers everywhere and at different times. Many of our pupils are very motivated by numbers and counting, so capitalise on their interests:-

- ◆ There are many children's TV shows, such as *Blaze and the Monster Machines*, that look at various Mathematical concepts.
- ◆ Many children's books are based on familiar counting stories such as "10 in the bed", and "5 little ducks" and may include a CD. You could use props such as rubber ducks or teddy bears to assist with one to one counting and make the stories/ rhymes more interactive. There may be corresponding rhymes and visuals on youtube.com which may help reinforce the learning and hold children's interest. Repeat any number stories and rhymes that your child enjoys over and over; tap the pattern out with hands, feet, instruments... repeat and repeat... you may get bored but your child won't and their awareness of counting and numbers will increase.



There are a lot of Maths themed books, CDs, DVDs, audio books (Number, counting, shape, sizes etc!) available at local libraries. It's free and easy to join and children can have their own library card. Visit www.livewirewarrington.co.uk/library for more information or just pop into your local library.

Many other early books focus on counting, colour, pattern, size, shape... and just by exposing your child to the language and associated images will provide them with a good start. Examples include "The Blue balloon", by Mick Inkpen, "Elmer", by David McKee and "Twice my size".

By Adrian Mitchell.



- ◆ **Play Games:** There are many Maths themes that popular games focus on, and there are a wide range of examples:- dominoes, dice games, bingo, hopscotch, snakes and ladders. Take the opportunity to model as much language as possible- numbers, counting whilst pointing to spots on dice etc, ask how many, use ordinal language- first, second, third... whose turn? who is first, next, last? Positional language:- up, down (ladder in Snakes and ladders), under, over, in between, next to etc. You can always make up your own games using home made cards, chalked number squares on the front path etc, or even adapt "Eye spy", to guessing where the "item is" that you are spying- "Is it up in the sky or inside the car?" Play hide and seek and make a point

of the counting- either forwards or backwards from 10/100 as appropriate. You could also play a guess the shape or number game, by hiding large numbers or shapes cut from cardboard inside an empty pillow case and getting your child to feel them and say or point to or look at the numbers on a number chart

- ◆ **Outdoors** Look out for opportunities for fun Maths activities in the community. The outdoors are rich in learning experiences and are often a favourite pastime of our pupils. Counting- count how many footsteps it takes to get to the local park, how many houses are on your road, how many dogs are out for a walk, how many turns until the roundabout stops etc. Numbers- are everywhere! Look at car number plates, bus numbers, house numbers, numbers on signs, such as speed limits, numbered seats on the roundabout, hopscotch and number squares.. Patterns- observe the changing of seasons and patterns in nature, such as printing with pinecones or pressing leaves into playdough Weight, shape, size and length - compare size and weight of stones, shells, pine-

