

# Ways to help your child with Maths.

Reception Parents/Carers

31.1.17



## Play dough

**There are lots of mathematical opportunities when using play dough!**

1. Use pastry cutters to make and count cakes/biscuits/numbers/models. (Say the numbers in order as you count them).
2. Add candles to the cakes and count them. (Questions you could ask: *How many candles do we need? Are there enough candles for each cake to have one? How many candles would we need if each cake had 2? Etc.*)
4. Give everyone a play dough cake - *how many more do we need/how many less?*
5. Sort out the models that you make - talk about size- who has the *biggest/smallest?* What shapes have you made?
6. Use play dough objects to count in 2's.
7. Take away/add using play dough models - *I have 4 and you have 2, how many are there altogether?*
8. Share out the objects you make - *can you share them so that everyone has the same? How many more do we need so that everyone has the same? How many fewer/less cakes does mum have than you have?*
9. Grouping - put the models into groups of 2, 5, 10 etc.
10. Make 5 cakes/biscuits/models. *How many different ways can we put these into two groups? (Put them onto two plates).*  
This can easily be extended to find all of the number bonds (addition) facts for numbers to 10. (E.g.  $10 + 0$ ,  $9 + 1$ ,  $8 + 2$  etc)

Variety of counting mats which you can download and print from Sparkle box ([www.sparklebox.co.uk](http://www.sparklebox.co.uk)). These can be used for basic counting, doubling and simple division (sharing).

## Play dough recipes:

### Cooked recipe:

*1 cup plain flour*

*$\frac{1}{2}$  cup salt*

*2 tablespoons cream of tartar*

*2 tablespoons vegetable oil*

*1 cup water with food colouring added*

*1 teaspoon vanilla essence/other essences (optional but it makes the play dough smell nice!)*

Put all the ingredients into a large saucepan, and stir over a medium heat until the dough forms into a ball. Allow to cool, and then knead until smooth.

Store in an airtight container (a Ziploc bag with the air pressed out is good). This recipe will keep for a few of weeks at least.

### 1 Minute Play dough recipe: (not cooked)

*Your will need:*

- *1/2 cup of salt*
- *1 cup of flour*
- *1 tablespoon of cream of tartar*
- *1 tablespoon of oil*
- *1 cup of boiling water (from the kettle) mixed with some food colouring.*

### What to do:

Put all the dry ingredients in a bowl and then mix vigorously with the hot water. Cool and then store in an airtight container/bag.

## Flash cards

Extremely useful as they can be used for:

1. Recognising numbers
2. Ordering numbers
3. Making number lines: put numbers into a line in order - then remove some numbers randomly. *Which numbers are missing?*
4. Find 1 more/ 1 less than a chosen number.
5. Place value - use the flash cards to make a 2 digit number e.g.: 1 and 3 could be used to make 13 or 31 - *which is bigger? How could we find out?*
6. Put a selection of the flash cards into order from the smallest to the largest e.g.: 10, 7, 5, 14. Put these into order - *how do you know that 5 is the smallest? 14 the biggest? Etc.*
7. Addition - using flashcards and objects to count out and check answers. For the more confident - You could also choose a card and then find out how many more you need to get to a chosen total such as 10 by counting on.

## Puzzles and games

- Dominoes - use for matching numbers and quantities, counting, recognising numbers (match spot patterns to number cards), find the double dominos.
- Snap
- Doubles matching jigsaws/number jigsaws.
- Dice - ideas for these include: Roll the dice and say the number, roll the dice and add the totals, roll the dice 3 times and put the numbers you have rolled into order from the smallest to the largest.  
*Play 7 nice things* - choose 7 small toys each - take it in turns to roll the dice and count out that number of toys - give these to the other player. Continue until one player has all of the toys - they win! (This can easily be adapted to larger numbers, such as 10).
- Simple board games - such as snakes and ladders - excellent for developing counting skills especially counting on. When your child seems confident with this you could then

extend this by asking them to predict where their counter will be when they roll a 5 etc on the dice: e.g.: Your counter is on 4 and you roll a 2 - where do you need to move to?

- Top trumps cards.
- playing cards

## **Patterns**

Patterning really helps children with mathematical skills - if a child can recognise and extend patterns it is so much easier for them to relate this to number patterns later on, these are essential when looking at number bonds and number facts.

- Coloured pasta for making patterns
- Make repeating patterns using stickers/picture stamps, toys etc. Encourage your child to talk about the patterns created.
- look for patterns in the environment: wall paper, tiles, bricks, wrapping paper etc.
- Lego—and sparkle box patterns
- Beads—and sparkle box patterns
- Make patterns using numbers. E.g. 23232323

## **Shape**

Building with blocks or lego.

Play dough with shape cutters.

Making models from junk (re-cycled boxes)

Printing with different shapes.

Cut out shapes from old greetings cards or wrapping paper to make a collage.

Look for shapes in the environment- buildings, cars, paving slabs.

Sort the shopping by shape.

Play hunt the shape or I spy something that is: round and flat or something that has 4 straight sides.

## Cars (or other small toys).

Use these to:

- Add/take away
- Sort by colour
- Sort by size
- Count cars- in 1's and extend to counting in 2's (if your child seems confident)
- Double the cars/share the cars equally.
- Make patterns with them- and explain the patterns made.
- Solve simple problems with them - if one car has four wheels, how many wheels will 2 cars have? How about 4 cars? (Count the wheels to check!)

## Messy play

There are a variety of things you could use at home for this: Ice, shaving foam, gloop, (corn flour, mixed with water), jelly baffle, (which can be bought in toy shops or you could make your own), sand pit, water with bubbles in.

- Hide plastic numerals - *what number have you found?*
- count groups of objects - *how many counters/objects can you find?*
- count groups of objects and match to numerals
- Write numbers
- Add groups of objects
- Take away from a set of objects - *what has happened to the set? Has it got bigger or smaller?*

## Dolls and tea sets/ (or setting the table at home)

Set out the tea-set - Count the cups etc, *how many more will we need?*

- Share groups of objects - e.g.: Give each doll a cake/plate/spoon etc.

Ask lots of questions: *How many things altogether? How many cups? Saucers? Plates?*

- Say number names in order
- Add/take away using the tea set.

## At Home

This list could be endless!

- Basically, count everything! Count toys, kitchen utensils, items of clothing as they come out of the dryer etc. Remember to help your child to do this by either pointing to or moving each object as you count.
- When out shopping – look at numbers on price labels, ask your child to get you 3 apples, 1 box of cereals etc. Discuss shopping lists – “*We need 6 tomatoes to make a sauce for dinner but we only have 3. How many more do we need?*”
- Look at door numbers – *what number do we live at? Which number does your friend live at? Etc.*
- Look at numbers around you when out and about – number plates on cars, numbers on road signs, numbers on post boxes etc.
- Spot numbers in the house – on pages in books, in newspapers, on remote controls etc.
- Count how many stairs to bed.
- Have numbers in the bath.
- Sing number songs
- Play games on the computer.
- Show you child a number: jump, clap, hop this many times !
- How many steps to the lamp post/letter box/ next car/corner of the road?
- Hunt numbers around the house, hide flash cards – who found the largest/smallest number?
- Talk about when you are using maths e.g. “I’ve just got to add these numbers so I know how much to pay”.

### Useful websites - please be aware of adverts / promotions when using some of these websites!

[www.sparklebox.co.uk](http://www.sparklebox.co.uk) – resources you can download and print.

[www.twinkl.co.uk](http://www.twinkl.co.uk) – resources you can download and print.

[www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html](http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html) – interactive maths games

[www.ictgames.co.uk](http://www.ictgames.co.uk) – this site has lots of interactive maths games

[www.familylearning.org.uk](http://www.familylearning.org.uk) – this is a very useful website with lots of links to interactive games you can play for both numeracy and literacy.

[www.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/subjects/earlylearning/nurserysongs](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/subjects/earlylearning/nurserysongs) – A huge bank of Nursery rhymes including lots of Number rhymes

### Apps - please be aware of adverts / promotions when using some of these Apps!

Maths, age 4 – 6 (Free) Maths, age 3 – 5 (Free)

Twinkl Count to 20 Pop (£0.99)

Twinkl 100 Square Number Grid (Free) – Useful tool to practise counting in 2s, 5s, or 10s

Maths Alien Adventure (Free)

Number Animals (Free)

Addition! (Free)

Animals Count (Free) – Number recognition and number formation

123 Counting Fun (Free) – Ordering, recognising and tracing numbers