

## Help your child with Maths

### **Before s/he starts school**

Before your child starts school, help them to feel confident with numbers by talking about them and using them during every day experiences.

Count as many things as you can: the number of buttons as you fasten them, the number of fingers as you put on gloves, the number of socks as you put them in the washing machine or the number of place settings at a table.

Sing number nursery songs and rhymes as you are sitting in a traffic jam, walking to the shops etc. Many number songs such as Five Little Ducks or Ten Green Bottles, start with a number and count backwards. Some rhymes count in a forward sequence; a favourite example is '1,2,3,4,5 Once I caught a fish alive'

Use bedtime picture story books as a source of counting practice. Ask your child to help you to count, for example, the number of teddies in a picture. When objects are in a line, encourage the habit of counting from left to right.

Count actions as you clap, stamp, wiggle fingers or climb stairs. This is very helpful in teaching children to say one count for each action.

When you count things, help your child to see that the last counting word you say tells you how many things there were. Do this by emphasising the last number you say: "one, two, three, four. There are four teddies."

### **Once school has started**

Once your child is at school s/he will be concentrating even more on the early skills of recognising numbers and counting.

### **Numbers**

- \* Sing counting songs and number rhymes eg. 10 green bottles, 1,2, buckle my shoe etc.

- \* Can you find page numbers in your book?

- \* Can you set the table for your family?

- \* Find pairs:- socks, shoes, gloves, mittens, candlesticks, pyjamas, shorts,

trousers, slippers, wellingtons.

- \* Count large numbers of items (pegs, buttons, beads etc.) by counting in tens.
- \* Learn number doubles to ten (1+1, 2+2, 3+3 etc.)
- \* Count in 10's from any number (3, 13, 23 etc.)
- \* Count in 2's.
- \* Count in 5's.
- \* Count to 100 backwards; forwards.
- \* Collect car numbers which have a 5 in them; 3 in them etc.
- \* Collect numbers all around eg. on your microwave, door, telephone, clock, computer, radio etc.
- \* Add the digits of car numbers. Who can get to 20 first?
- \* Counting in your house. How many doors, windows, fireplaces, rooms, steps, chimneys, etc.?
- \* Cut up numbers in magazines and make a numbers collage.

## **Games**

- \* Snap.
- \* Snakes and ladders.
- \* Dominoes.
- \* Connect four game.
- \* Board games.
- \* Skittles; add numbers on the skittles.
- \* Bingo; 10 more game - put counter on the number which is 10 more than the number called.
- \* Bingo; 10 less game - put counter on the number which is 10 less than the number called.
- \* Dice; - use dice with numerals instead of spots - use 2 dice and add the score - change numbers on the dice to get higher numerals.

## **Shape**

- \* Supermarket packaging; can you find a cylinder, cube and a sphere?
- \* Look for 2D shapes. Can you find a triangle, square, rectangle, circle, pentagon, hexagon in buildings, packaging, transport, road signs, your house?
- \* Weighing/Baking
- \* Weigh different items at 100gm. Compare quantities.
- \* Bake some buns. Weigh out the ingredients.

- \* Make yourself a sandwich. Can you cut it into halves/quarters?
- \* Share a piece of fruit. Cut into halves/quarters for four people.
- \* Ask questions such as "are there enough biscuits for everyone to have two each?"

## **Measuring**

- \* How tall are you? Measure against a height chart. Compare with your family members. Who is the tallest? Shortest? What is the difference in centimetres?
- \* Buying new shoes. What is your shoe size? Compare with your family. Whose feet are biggest; longest; smallest; shortest?
- \* Buying new clothes. Measure your different body parts using a cm. tape measure. Look at the labels in new clothes. What do the numbers mean?
- \* Use the vocabulary of measuring - wide, narrow, short, long, tall, high, thick, thin - to describe things in everyday life.
- \* Estimate how many strides across your bedroom/ your rug. Now find out and count etc.

## **Capacity**

- \* Supermarket packaging. Read 1 litre; 500ml. Read 1kg; 1/2 kg; 500g.
- \* In the bath - use shampoo, bubble bath bottle to talk about full/half full/empty.
- \* Can you estimate how many tops fill the empty bottle? Now count and find out. How near was your estimate?

## **Money and Shopping**

- \* Make a coin rubbings pattern/picture.
- \* Arrange 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2 coins in value order.
- \* Take 50p to the shop with mum - buy sweets/comic. Count the change together.
- \* Buy 2 items from a shop - add how much you have spent. What change will you receive?
- \* How many 20p in £1? 5p in 10p? 5p in 20p? 5p in £1?
- \* How many packets of crisps can I buy for a pound?

## **Clocks and Time**

- \* Look at clocks and watches.
- \* Learn o'clock - big hand at the top.
- \* Learn half past - big hand at the bottom.
- \* Learn - the little hands points to numerals.
- \* Learn the days of the week.
- \* Learn the months of the year.
- \* My birthday is .....
- \* Make a picture of things you do in the morning/afternoon/evening.
- \* Learn the time that school starts/dinnertime/bathtime/bedtime.
- \* How many skips can you do in 1 minute?
- \* How many 8's can you write in 1 minute?
- \* How many times can you write your name in 1 minute?
- \* How long does it take to eat your breakfast? Put on your clothes? Walk to school? Make your bed?