

Supporting your child with Maths



In Reception, children learn how to use number in a very practical way. There are many ways that you can support your child with Maths at home when carrying out day to day activities such as setting the table, meal times, baking a cake, going to the shops etc.

The following three tips can be used within your child's everyday situations to help build their concrete number skills before starting school.

1. **Counting:** Before starting school children should be able to count up to ten. You can use lots of play materials to do this, such as bricks and toys. Get your child to practise counting up to ten, pointing to each of the objects as they do so.



2. **Addition and subtraction:** Teach your child about counting in relation to the principle of addition and subtraction. They can understand simple addition by counting up and simple subtraction by counting down. For instance if you have two blocks in front of your child you can say, "We're going to add one more and then we will have three". You can also introduce them to the concept of counting down or subtraction by counting down from two to one. This sets the scene for learning about addition and subtraction in more abstract terms when children start school.
3. **The Language of Maths:** It is useful to teach your child the words they need to use to understand number concepts. This really relates to principles around measurement and shape. For instance you can get your child to look, feel and hold play objects so that they can learn about concepts of length (which object is longer and shorter) and weight (which object is heavier and lighter). Using these objects can also introduce shapes to children. The shapes that you should introduce are squares, circles, rectangles and triangles. You can show children shapes as objects or you can draw them together.

