

Supporting your child with their maths

There are lots of ways to help your child practise their key maths skills at home. These practical activities are really helpful in supporting your child in becoming confident mathematicians. Often they can be incorporated into everyday activities without the child necessarily realising they are practising their maths.

Money

Children need to be confident in their understanding of the value of coins and being able to add, subtract, multiply and divide quantities of money. Some simple ideas that can help your child become confident in using money include:



- Asking your child to check your change in a shop.
- Finding the 'best deal' in the supermarket.
- Helping count the loose change, or the change in a jar/money box at home.
- Finding different ways of making an amount, make it a competition what is the fewest coins you can use to make £2.43? What is the most coins you could use?
- Working out how much pocket money they would need to save to buy something they really want.

Measures



Children need to be confident in using measures in the classroom. They need to recognise the difference between a millimetre, centimetre and metre, gram and kilogram, millilitres and litres etc. Simple ways that you can support your child at home include:

- Baking with your child. Baking is a great way to get children involved in reading instructions, weighing and measuring, becoming familiar with quantities, fractions and temperatures.

- If you're decorating ask your child to work out how much paint you would need to paint the room.
- If they like helping in the garden using measures to work out the size of a bed, spaces between plants etc.
- If you're on a trip try working out the distance between your start and end point. You could even work out your expected time of arrival to help support their understanding of time.

Time

Children often find time difficult to understand, it is a very abstract concept. Children need a lot of practice to become comfortable with reading analogue clocks, in particular as we largely use digital clocks today. Some things which may help your child with time include:



- Converting between digital and analogue time.
- Working out how long they have left when having their screen time.
- How many minutes until dinner time etc.
- Using timetables/guides.

Playing Games



Lots of maths skills can be reinforced just by playing board games and card games with your children.

Supporting your child in completing small amounts of maths everyday is an effective way of building your child's confidence in maths and in developing their maths skills. It doesn't need to take a long time, just 10 minutes a day will really help. The more they practise, the better they will become. Simple quick activities such as problem solving will really get your child thinking and using their mathematics knowledge.