

Parent advice booklet – Helping your child with SEN at home

Supporting mathematics skills



What can I do at home?

Children with SEND needs lots of repetition and over-learning of skills which build a good understanding of mathematics or number.

Children sometimes find maths a challenge because it is so abstract, which is why it helps all children to keep maths as 'real life' as possible.

The best way you can support your child's maths is by playing games and experiencing number in a range of different real-life settings and ways. Maths should be kept fun and not seen as something scary.

You could try the following:

- ❖ Stay super positive about maths – children can become quickly turned off, or think they aren't very good at it.
- ❖ Pretend you love maths (even if you don't).
- ❖ Tell your child they are good at maths.

- ❖ Lots of praise and encouragement when your child uses maths. The experience should always be as positive as possible.
- ❖ Making mistakes in maths should be seen as a positive, and an opportunity to learn and grow.
- ❖ Encourage your child to use physical maths resources as much as possible, eg. counting cubes or objects, blocks, lego, shapes, rulers, scales, and their fingers.
- ❖ Never associate maths with speed. It is not important to work quickly on maths. This only creates maths anxiety.
- ❖ Talk about numbers you see around you – numbers on doors, prices in shops, timetables, clocks, books, etc. At first, just point them out so your child begins to recognise them and see how numbers are all around us.
- ❖ Little and often.
- ❖ Use maths language as you talk – **more, less, same, different** are all important words you can be using while you talk with your child through everyday situations. Over

emphasise the meanings and give loads of examples.

- ❖ Sing songs and nursery rhymes which involve numbers, and simple addition and subtraction, eg. Once I caught a fish alive, Ten on the bed, Ten green bottles, Five little ducks, One two buckle my shoe, Five little speckled frogs. Here is a weblink for the words:

<http://www.teachingyourchild.org.uk/number-songs.htm>

- ❖ You can find all of them on youtube as well.
- ❖ Play board games involving dice such as snakes and ladders to help with number recognition and simple addition and subtraction. Other useful games to bring in maths include: any which involve a dice, kids monopoly, connect 4, set, shut the box, uno, and pairs.
- ❖ Cooking is a great way to encourage the use of maths skills at home, including measuring and weighing ingredients, setting the table and sorting cutlery, and following a recipe.

- ❖ Lego is a useful tool for visualising counting or for addition and subtraction.
- ❖ Go on a number hunt together around your house. Your child will find it amazing how many numbers they can find!
Alternatively go on a shape hunt!
- ❖ Use and introduce your child to money as much as possible. They could help you count out money for shopping, or change.
- ❖ Gardening is another opportunity where maths can be introduced. Count out seeds as you plant them, talk about planting in vertical or horizontal lines, or measure the water in a water can.
- ❖ Create shapes with a potato cutter, or use stamps, talk about the shapes and their features.
- ❖ Playdough is a great way to have fun and use maths. You can make shapes, make worms and talk about long and short, make numbers, group things.
- ❖ Here's a simple recipe:
 - ❖ 1 cup of plain flour
 - ❖ 1 cup of water
 - ❖ 1 tablespoon cooking oil

- ❖ 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- ❖ Half a cup of salt
- ❖ food colouring and essences (optional)
- ❖ Put all ingredients in a large saucepan, and heat slowly, stirring all the time until it forms a ball. Keep it wrapped in clingfilm or in a covered tub to stop it drying out.

Are there any useful resources or websites I can use?

Oxford Owl has a fantastic website full of games and activities you can try out:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/maths/>

TopMarks has some fun maths games:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting>

Maths Shed has lots of ideas, games, resources and videos: <http://www.mathematicshed.com>

Here is a useful list of Apps, most are free and some have a small cost. These are not endorsed by the school, but come from recommendations.

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/south-wootton-junior-school/UploadedDocument/7d921d2f1b624df29cc13cd04bb25d91/maths-app-list-for-parents.pdf>

Familylearning website has some good ICT games to play at home:

http://www.familylearning.org.uk/online_math_games.html

The CBeebies website has lots of literacy games, videos and fun activities:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/topics/numeracy>

or try bbc bitesize:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/>

Who can I ask for more help or advice on supporting with mathematics?

Your child's class teacher and the school SENCO, Mrs Lee, will always be happy to help you with advice on supporting your child's maths skills at home. Please do come and have a chat.

We hope you enjoy this resource and find many of the practical tips useful.

St Pauls CE Primary School