

# Maths through play

Play is the natural way for children to learn. Children explore, investigate, recreate and begin to understand the world around them. As adults it is our role to support, enhance and extend play. We can provide materials and encouragement, opening the door to new activities and learning.



We might not automatically link maths and play. People often steer away from it whilst play is something we enjoy doing. For some reason maths seems to have a poor image! It is our job to change this and for children to see maths in a different light.



Children are experimenting with and learning maths all of the time, whether it was playing with a shape sorting game as a baby or counting the number of spoons needed for the teddy bear's picnic!

‘Play is an effective vehicle for fostering Mathematical concepts and developing positive attitudes to mathematics...Adults should seek to extend informally the mathematical experiences the children have already had in their home environment. (Curricular Guidance for Pre-school Education)



Our job is to make maths fun and part of the everyday activities that are going on. In school we provide different opportunities for the children to investigate numbers without really realising it!

In EYFS maths includes

### Number

- Helping children to count up to ten and beyond.
- Supporting children's understanding of numbers
- Developing understanding of addition and subtraction

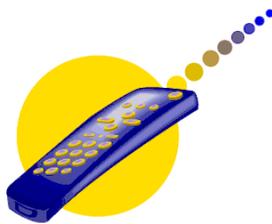
### Shape, space and measure

- Encouraging the use of mathematical words such as greater, smaller, heavier, lighter, more, less etc.
- Developing skills in comparing and sorting objects.
- Supporting children's understanding of shape and size including 2D and 3D shapes.



In number for example the children need to be able to identify numbers but they must also have a good understanding of number. For instance what does the number 7 mean? Something that we might take for granted. The children are guided and supported and given the opportunity to improve their understanding of number. This will then enable them to experiment with adding and subtracting.

There are many different activities that you can do at home. You are probably doing these already without realising it!



Here are just a few ideas.

- Pointing out numbers around you such as house numbers, bus numbers, numbers on remote controls.

- Counting as you walk up the stairs, putting toys away, laying the plates on the table.
- Comparing quantities, which plate has the most pasta, which shopping bag is heavier?
- Play simple board games such as bingo, dominoes.
- Sing number rhymes and songs together.



There are also some good websites which have maths games which the children certainly enjoy at school.

- ICTgames
- Topmarks
- Crickweb



We have also given you some maths challenge cards. These are short activity ideas that you can try if you have a few minutes spare. Feel free to change the ideas

to suit your child's interests, what you have to hand and their current level of development. If your child wants to record his / her thinking on paper let him / her do so in their way. For example he / she might want to a picture to represent a number. Your child could then bring it into school to tell us what they have been doing. Please let us know anything that your child says or does that you are pleased with so that we can add it to our learning journeys.

Have fun!