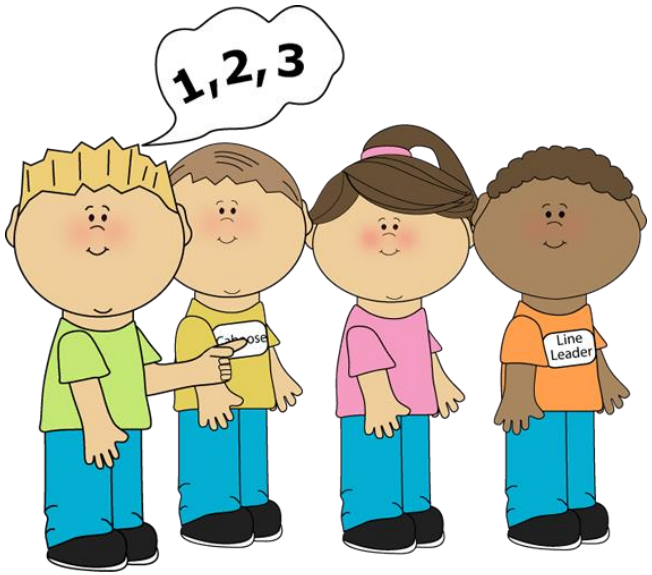
Maths: Foundation



Parent Mini Guide

The Three Schools

Top tips on how to support your child at home.

1. Make it Fun!

2. Let children see how maths is used in everyday life.

3. Learning key facts. E.g. Adding 1 to any number upto20 or Bonds to numbers within 10.
(This includes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 as well.) Bonds to 4: 4+ 0= 4 3+1=4 2+2=4 1+3=4 4-0=4 4-1=3 4-2=2 4-3=1 4-4=0)
It is better to do a little bit each day rather than one very long session. This way the concepts being taught will become really embedded. We need the children to become fluent.

4. Try to help the children see links between numbers.
Eg 4 + 1 =5 so 5 -1 =4. One more than 4 is 5 so 1 less than 5 is 4.

5. Use the correct maths vocabulary with them and encourage them to talk about what they are doing. Being able to reason about maths helps improve their understanding of number.

6. Support them with their tasks at home but don't take over.

7. It might be tempting to show them how you did maths at school but it will probably just confuse them. Ensure you use the strategies used in school. See our website for details.

8. Provide them with everyday problems. Eg. I have 3 spoons but there are 4 people. How many more spoons do I need?

9. Allow children thinking time.

10. Encourage a growth mindset. It's okay to find maths hard sometimes because when we achieve we can get that feel good factor. We learn from our mistakes. Don't just praise correct answers. Praise effort and the process because they will sometimes fail. Eg. I really like the way you worked that out. If they complain something is hard say: Great that means your brain is working hard.

Here are just a few suggestions:

Early Learning Goal: Children count reliably with numbers from one to 20, place them in order and say which number is one more or one less than a given number. Using quantities and objects, they add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer. They solve problems, including doubling, halving and sharing

- Sing number songs. Eg 10 Green bottles etc.
- Count forwards and back as you walk up and down the stairs. Start in 1's and then can you do it in 2's or 10's.
- Roll the dice. Tell me one more or 1 less than that number. You can also use spinners and packs of cards for this.
- Counting. Use real objects. Eg Toys. How many do I have? Get them to line them up and count each one in turn.
- Using objects begin to understand addition and subtraction. We have 5 teddies. If I take 1 way, how many do I have left?
- Play snakes and ladders or other board games.
- Throw two dice and add the amounts together. If spotty dice they can count the dice and then move onto dice with just the numbers on. Get them to keep the biggest number in their head and count on. Subtraction can be practised in the same way.
- Play Ping Pong. Decided on the function you are doing eg. Adding on 2. You say Ping they say Pong and then you might say 3 and they would say 5 as they have added on 2 to 3. You keep repeating this with the same function to help fluency. Another day you might practise adding 3etc.
- Catching and Throwing. Agree a function. Eg Add 1.Throw a ball and call out any number below 10, the children reply with the answer when they catch the ball.
- Get the children to solve real life problems. Eg Lets set the table for 4 people. How many knives and forks do we need in total? Let's count them?
- Phrase questions in lots of different ways using a range of vocabulary. Eg. 2 add 1. What is 2 more than 3? What is the total of 1 and 3? 3plus 1.
- If you have plastic numbers you can hide them in the sand/math. Can they find the number that comes after 7? Can you find two numbers that make 8? Is there another two numbers which you could find?
- Using objects. Eg Biscuits. Encourage the children to share them equally between two or more people.
- Divide objects. Eg Cake or pizza into half. Get the children familiar with the terms whole and half.
- Doubling fingers on one hand by mirroring with the second hand.

Early Learning Goal: Children use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities and objects and to solve problems. They recognise, create and describe patterns. They explore characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them.

- Let children have their own purses and money boxes.
- Create a toy shop or grocers at home with food from the cupboard. Encourage children to pay with the correct amount.
- Encourage children to use the kitchen using scales.
- Give them a ruler or tape measure so they can see the different units of measure.
- Provide them with different plastic containers in the bath and a jug. Which container is full? Which container has the smallest amount in?
- Make sure you have an analogue clock in the house and get them interested in the time.
  E.g Look it is 12 o'clock. It's dinner time. Let's look at where the hands are pointing.
- Go on a shape hunt around the house.
- Make patterns with beads or counters.
- Hide a teddy in a room. Give them instructions on how to find it. E.g. Forward, back, under, on top etc.

Games:

Orchard toys produce some great games that will help children experience maths in a fun way.