



Helping your child with maths



Calculations

The maths work your child is doing at school may look very different to the kind of calculations you remember. This is because children are encouraged to use concrete and pictorial resources to help them and also to work mentally, where possible, using personal jottings to help support their thinking. Even when children are taught more formal written methods (from approximately mid-late year 3 onwards), they are encouraged to use these methods for calculations they cannot solve in their heads. Concrete resources are used alongside even the formal methods to aid understanding.

On our school website you can find our calculation policy (with pictures and examples) and some links to videos which may be helpful.



Talk to your child about how you work things out.



Ask your child to explain their thinking.

Everybody can do and enjoy maths!



Give lots of praise and encouragement.

Math Maths Fun!

Shape Space and Measure

1. Identify different shapes in your house and local environment.
2. Describe and name shapes with your child.
3. Practise measuring lengths (in mm or cm). Use a ruler or tape measure. Discuss when this is important in real life and why we **MUST** be accurate. (e.g. measuring rooms for furniture/ carpets)
4. Encourage your child to weigh out ingredients for cooking. A traditional weighing scales rather than digital is super useful as it encourages children to read the scale.
5. Look at the weights of items you buy in the supermarket. Put items in order of weight by feel. Put them in order of weight by only reading the weights from the packets.
6. Practise telling the time.

When faced with a calculation problem, encourage your child to ask...

- Can I do this in my head?
- Could I do this in my head using drawings or jottings to help me?
- Do I need to use a written method?



Encourage them to ask...

- Is the answer sensible?
- How can I check my work?

Helping at Home

Real Life Problems

Some ideas

1. Go shopping with your child to buy two or three items. Ask them to work out the total amount spent. How much change will they get?
2. Percentages and fractions tie in nicely with shopping too. What do we mean by 50% off? 25% off? Half price etc. What will the new price be? (Yr 5/6)
3. Plan an outing during the holidays. Ask your child to think about what time you will need to set off. What time will you get there? How much money will you need to pay the entrance fee?
4. Use a TV guide. Work out the length of their favourite programmes. How long until their favourite programme starts.
5. Encourage your child to wear a watch and tell the time.
6. Use a bus or train timetable to plan a journey.
7. Help your child to scale a recipe up or down to feed the right amount of people.

Times Table

Ideally, by the end of Year 4, pupils are expected to know their times tables up to 12×12 . Below are some ideas for helping them with this. 4

1. Sing and chant the tables. Include the whole fact (e.g. $3 \times 5 = 15$) rather than just the answers. Counting in fives is not the same as knowing your 5 times tables.
2. Encourage your child to use Timestables Rockstars or other online times tables games.
3. Use playing cards and make a game out of it. Turn over two cards. Can your child multiply the two numbers together? If so, they can keep them and try another pair. How many cards can they collect?
4. Practise matching the multiplication fact with the division fact (and alternative multiplication facts). E.g. if you know $3 \times 5 = 15$ you also know $5 \times 3 = 15$. How many 5s in 15? How many 3s in 15?