



Ideas to support your child with mathematics

At Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School we want every child to have a positive attitude and interest in mathematics. To do this we immerse them in a ‘maths rich’ learning environment alongside direct teaching. Our mathematics curriculum builds on the knowledge and skills children acquire alongside opportunities to apply new learning, practice and refine skills in all areas of mathematics including shape, space and measure. Children are supported to look for patterns and relationships, spot connections, ‘have a go’, talk with adults and their friends about what they notice and their ideas.

In line with the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum Guidance we believe children develop the building blocks to excel mathematically by having a deep understanding of numbers to 10. Children will explore the relationships between numbers and patterns within them by frequently engaging in play based experiences to build and apply their understanding. Our curriculum also includes varied opportunities for children to develop their spatial reasoning and related vocabulary across all areas of mathematics including shape, pattern, size, position and measure

Maths is everywhere in the home and outdoors, you don’t need any special equipment, you and your child can enjoy sharing maths activities through many of the things you do every day. Staff at Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School are passionate about mathematics and we want to share some ideas so you can continue to foster this love and learning with your child at home.

If you have any questions about your child’s learning and development please speak to your key worker who will be happy to help.

Supporting children from birth to three



Here’s a link to some great counting songs and rhymes

BBC RADIO

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-counting-songs/zn67kmn>

At home you could

- Support your child to practice stacking with cups or blocks, filling and emptying with sand, mud or water
- Sing lots of number related finger rhymes
- Draw attention to changing amounts saying ‘lots, more, the same’. For example ‘You’ve got lots of cars’, ‘Do you want more apple?’
- Say numbers in order, things like counting the stairs as you climb them and encourage your child to join in, count the plates as you put them on the table
- Encourage your child to explore different spaces indoors and outdoors. Talk about what you see them doing using words like ‘on top, under, through, up, down.
- Let your child hear you use words like ‘big/bigger, small/smaller, heavy/light, tall/short’
- Point out patterns you see – things like stripes or spots on material and use words like ‘repeated’ and ‘the same all over’

Supporting children aged three to four

At home you could

- Support your child to show amounts on their fingers
- Link number symbols to amounts – things like a labelled box for 3 trucks, a labelled bowl for 5 apples and refer to these ‘ How many trucks should we have?’ at tidy up time
- Encourage children to make their own marks to show amounts as well as using number symbols – things like keeping score in a game, writing how many bananas you will buy on a shopping trip
- Compare quantities using words like ‘ more than, fewer than’ – things like ‘ You have got more crackers than me’
- Talk with your child about shapes around the home – these can be 2D(flat shapes) – circle, square, rectangle, triangle but also 3D shapes – things like bean tins as cylinders, tissue box as cuboid, football as sphere. Support your child to notice the properties of these shapes using words like ‘ sides, corners, straight, flat, round’
- Make obstacle courses, talk about routes when walking to nursery or point out the position of toys when you are playing saying words like ‘ off, down, behind, beside, between.
- Use everyday opportunities to talk with your child about size, length, capacity and weight – Things like asking ‘ What happens to the playdough when you stretch up?’, ‘ Can you make the puddle larger?’
- When your child is building and using construction toys like blocks and bricks or den making materials talk with them about the shapes of the things they are using and how they are fit for purpose. For example using a triangular shape for a roof or an arch shape for a bridge
- Talk about the different patterns you see – patterns in fabric, action patterns (clap, clap, stamp, clap, clap stamp), patterns in events ‘ Every day we..., every night we...’ making patterns with blocks

Useful Websites



Sesame Street - Maths is Everywhere

WEBSITE <https://www.sesamestreet.org/>

Ideas for parents on using maths in everyday activities, with helpful and fun videos.



Cbeebies - Help your child be epic at

maths WEBSITE

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/help-your-child-with-maths>

Tips for parents about developing numeracy age 0-6, with fun activities to build into everyday life and play.

Early Maths Counts

WEBSITE <https://earlymathcounts.org/resources/>

A wealth of maths apps, games and activities for nursery children



Our weekly home learning activities include ‘maths bags’ each one containing a fun maths activity for you to share with your child at home.

IMPORTANT – Please remember to check all website links to ensure the content is appropriate before sharing with your child