

# Ideas to help your children at home.

## Golden Rule:

*Whatever you do, make sure your children enjoy it.*



If they struggle to understand, make mistakes, or get bored: keep calm, make it easier, change the subject, tell them a joke, play football, go to the park .... but please don't get cross or impatient - you could put them off Maths for life.

Generally the advice is;

- Talk about and involve children in the situations in which you use Maths and English in everyday life;
- Play games involving numbers and/or logic, such as card games, dominoes, darts, draughts, chess etc.;
- Stimulate their thinking at times of boredom, (such as when travelling), with mental activities;
- Check with the school for any specific help which would be useful. Also check the methods they are teaching for any specific content, such as written methods of calculating.
- Read or make up stories together
- Talk with your child about what they enjoy and ask them to explain in detail.

**The 'End of Year Expectations' booklets will give you an indication of the content and level of Maths and English your children are likely to be working on at school. The following gives a very rough idea of appropriate activities within broad age bands. If you do not have one of these, please ask your child's class teacher for a copy.**

## All ages:

Ask the question:

**'The answer is 10 (or any number), what's the question?'**

**'The answer is 10am, what is the question?'**

Lots of other variations!

Possible responses:

- 8 plus 2
- 1 million divided by one hundred thousand
- $5 \times 2$
- $25 - 15$
- 2.5 times 4
- the number before 11
- 9999 subtract 9989
- the square root of 100



This is a brilliant activity because: there's no failure; it stimulates thinking about and stretching knowledge of numbers and mathematical relationships; it's good fun.

## Early Years / KS1:

### Everyday situations:

- Sorting things out and putting things away, e.g. shopping, toys, cutlery, clothes. Talk about which things go together and where things go, giving clear instructions for position such as 'in the cupboard, on the bottom shelf'.
- Matching pairs of socks, shoes, gloves.
- Ordering and sequencing when getting dressed, going to the shops, having a bath etc. Talk about what you do first, what you do next, ... and last of all.
- Comparing objects according to size, weight or capacity, e.g. the longest spoon, the lightest shopping bag, the cup which holds the most, the shortest person, the widest hand, the bottle which is half full.
- Matching and counting when setting the table, preparing food, sharing out food, etc.
- Counting, weighing, measuring capacity and timing when cooking
- Talking about time, referring to the clock at different times throughout the day, (preferably a clock with hands), setting times for certain events, e.g. 'We'll have lunch at 1 o'clock.', timing events, e.g. 'How long will it take to wash the dishes?'
- Handling small amounts of money when shopping, counting small totals.

### Play activities/games:

- Talking about directions when walking around or playing with toy vehicles etc. (e.g. forwards, backwards, straight on, turn left/right.)
- Making models with building bricks, Lego, boxes etc. Talk about shape and position; count the number of similar shapes etc.
- Playing games involving matching, recognising numbers and shapes or counting such as snap, pairs (pelmonism), dominoes, board and dice games (e.g. snakes and ladders).
- Counting particular things on journeys, e.g. red cars, fields with cows in, churches etc.
- Sharing books. Sit together when you read to children so that they can follow the pictures. Go back over the story and talk about the order of events, the number, position and shape of things in the pictures etc.

### Mental activities:

- Counting in 1s, then 2s or 10s, e.g. as you climb stairs, walk to the local shop etc.
- Simple addition/subtraction calculations, e.g.  $5 + 2$ ,  $10 - 7$  for Y1, developing to  $15 + 2$ ,  $25 + 2$ ,  $25 + 12$ ,  $20 - 7$ ,  $30 - 7$ ,  $30 - 17$  and beyond in Y2. 'What's  $32 + 14$ ? How did you work it out?'
- The answer is 5, what is the question?

All of the above provide the foundation for mathematical understanding and development.



## KS2:

### Everyday situations:

- Weighing, measuring capacity and timing when cooking. Converting a recipe for 4 people to one for 6 people.
- Being involved with measuring and calculating how much curtain fabric is needed, how much wood for shelves, how many wall or floor tiles are needed, how much carpet etc.
- Talking about time, e.g. How long is it until lunch time? The journey takes  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours, when will we arrive? We need to be there at 2.00 pm, when do we need to leave home? Many children will still need practice with reading clock times, particularly minutes past and minutes to the hour.
- Handling amounts of money when shopping, working out total costs, working out change, checking receipts. Working out prices of sale items, e.g. 20% off. Managing pocket money and saving for things.
- Working out distances and directions from maps.
- Discussing and comparing house prices from newspaper house sales pages.
- Working out how much petrol will be used on a journey, working out average speed for a journey, costing journeys or holidays etc.

### Play activities/games:

- Card games such as sevens, cribbage, pontoon etc.
- Any games involving calculating scores, e.g. scrabble, quoits, darts, bowling.
- Beat the calculator. In pairs, one with a calculator, one without, each works out the answer to a calculation aiming for the one without the calculator to say the answer first.
- Games involving strategic thinking/logic, e.g. draughts, chess, mastermind.
- Specialized computer games designed for using and developing Maths.



### Mental activities:

- Practicing and developing knowledge of addition and subtraction facts within 20 ( $7+8$ ,  $13-5$  etc.) and multiplication and division facts to  $10 \times 10$  ( $6 \times 7$ ,  $35/5$  etc.) Make it into a game if possible, e.g. have a set of cards numbered 1-10, pick a number such as 4, say 4 times the number on the card as each is turned over, keep all the cards you get right. Beat the calculator as above. On a journey, adult passenger times response, try to beat your own time.
- Ask 'progressive' calculations, e.g.  $7 + 6$ ,  $17 + 6$ ,  $27 + 6$ ,  $47 + 6$ ,  $147 + 6$ ;  $5 \times 2$ ,  $50 \times 2$ ,  $500 \times 2$ ,  $500 \times 20$ .
- Working out 2-digit additions and subtractions, multiplying and dividing 2-digit numbers by 1 digit numbers mentally. Talk about how to make it easier, e.g. for  $28 + 15$ , call it 30 add 13 and that's easy; for  $16 \times 4$ , double 16, then double 32.
- Open-ended activities, e.g. The answer's 25, what's the question? How can you use combinations of 3 and 6 to make different numbers? (Use each number as many times as you like with addition, subtraction, multiplication or division.)

## Useful websites:

School Subscriptions (your child should have a username and password for these)

<http://www.educationcity.com> - Education City (Y1-6)

<http://www.readingeggs.co.uk> - Reading Eggs (Y2-6)



## All Subjects

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/> Mainly Maths, English and Science games and interactive activities.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/> Age appropriate, subject specific activities, games, worksheets and experiments. Also has revision activities.

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/> Fun and useful interactive activities for most subjects as well as games for the children.

<http://www.childrensuniversity.manchester.ac.uk/> A combination of random Science, History, Art and Literacy activities but interactive and fun!

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/> Contains links to interactive resources based on all subject areas.

### English

<http://www.ictgames.co.uk/> A whole range of lovely interactive games for Primary aged children.

<http://www.storiesfromtheweb.org/> Book reviews, free stories, writing activities and games for Primary aged children.

<http://www.magickeys.com/books/index.html> Scroll down the page for free online animated stories.

<http://www.northpole.com/> CHRISTMAS ONLY!! E-mail Santa with your class and receive a great reply – a lovely activity for the younger children (also includes games and other activities).

<http://www.candlelightstories.com/storybooks/grimms-fairy-tales/> Audio books, stories and games. Many of the stories are 'classics' eg. from the brothers Grimm (read with an American accent)

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4\\_11/site/literacy.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/site/literacy.shtml) The Primary Literacy zone from BBC schools.

<http://www.seussville.com/> Games based on the stories

[http://www.usborne-](http://www.usborne-quicklinks.com/uk/uk_menu_areas_pages/reading_programme/reading_programme.asp?type=subject&menu=s115)

[quicklinks.com/uk/uk\\_menu\\_areas\\_pages/reading\\_programme/reading\\_programme.asp?type=subject&menu=s115](http://www.usborne-quicklinks.com/uk/uk_menu_areas_pages/reading_programme/reading_programme.asp?type=subject&menu=s115)

Links for books on the Usborne reading scheme but also helpful for topic work as it has good hyperlinks.

### Maths

<http://www.ictgames.co.uk/> A whole range of lovely interactive games for Primary aged children.

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/earlymath/> An American website with some great interactive games.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4\\_11/site/numeracy.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/site/numeracy.shtml) Maths homepage from the BBC including interactive games, programmes and worksheets.

<http://www.funbrain.com/brain/MathBrain/MathBrain.html> Fun maths games that can be set to different levels of difficulty. Each 'level' is a different game to the one preceding it.

<https://pbskids.org/> Maths games for older children although they will probably be unaware that it is 'work'!

<http://www.mathsisfun.com/> Games and explanations of different concepts with child friendly illustrations.

<http://www.sumdog.co.uk> Children in Year 5 and 6 should have a username and password for this fun Maths game.

### Other

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/> Characters, stories, songs and games for young children based on Cbeebies shows.

<http://www.kidswb.com/> Games and downloads from Warner Bros. for younger children

[http://www.nickjr.com/index.jhtml?extcmp=SEO\\_SSP\\_Y](http://www.nickjr.com/index.jhtml?extcmp=SEO_SSP_Y) Interactive art activities and games incl. 'Dora the explorer'

<http://www.cargames1.com/> Lots of different car and motorbike racing games – excellent for use in choosing time.

<http://www.starwars.com/kids/> Games, craft ideas, online colouring etc!

<https://www.pixar.com/short-films> Watch any of the classic Pixar 'Shorts', very, very funny!

<http://www.roalddahl.com/> Games and activities based on the books

<https://www.myplaycity.com/free-kids-games/> A whole range of fun free games for ks1 and ks2 children.