

Encourage mathematics at home

Counting - Learning to count has lots of stages

- Learning to say the numbers in the right order
- Learning what one thing or two things really means
- Using a counting finger to touch the things they are counting
- Not saying the words too quickly or too slowly as they count
- Realising that the last number they say actually means that's how many things there are
- Learning to read numerals
- Learning to connect numerals with quantities

Problem solving

How many plates do I need for dinnertime? How can I find out? (count the people) Is that enough? Do I need any more? Have I got too many? If you use this mathematical language in real contexts it will help your child what it means and see that counting is useful!

Adding and subtracting

In real situations find out what happens if you add one more sweet/ball/book.....What happens if I take one thing away? Counting songs like 5 little monkeys jumping on the bed are about taking away one

Time

Use time words like next week, yesterday, tonight. Look at a clock and talk about the time for breakfast or bed time but don't expect them to tell the time

Money

Let children handle real coins, let them sort and match them and show them the numbers on them. Use their proper names like one penny or one p. Don't just say "money".

Size

Talk about different sizes in real contexts. Use vocabulary such as taller, shorter, wider, narrower, heavier, lighter. Don't just say big and little. Play in the bath or in the sand – which pot holds the most, which bottle can you fill up the quickest?

Sorting

Let your child help you sort and match things – pair up matching socks, help put all the forks away in the cutlery drawer, put all the tins in the pantry, put all the toy horses into one field, sort all the toy cars into one box etc

Shapes

Look for shapes like squares and circles round the house. Play with wooden blocks of different shapes. Draw shapes, talk about their sides and corners.

Patterns

Look for different patterns like stripey jumpers, spotty jugs, footprints in the mud, mosaic patterns in old buildings....

Make maths part of your everyday language and have fun with it!

