

Years 4 to 7: A quick guide to helping your child with maths.

- Read the water meter with your child. Work out together how much water was used for the family's showers in the evening.
- Let your child join in when you are cooking. Use digital and analogue scales to measure quantities for cooking. Ask questions like *How many grams in a kilogram? What does half a litre mean? What is the capacity of one cup?*
- Sit together and count the coins in the money box. Use money to teach your child about decimals.
- Ask your child to record important dates and times on your family's calendar.
- Talk with your child about sport scores. Ask questions like *Did your team win? How much did they win by? How many more goals did they kick?*
- Plan a vegie patch together. Decide on the best way that the plants can be arranged. Talk about how far apart the plants should be spaced and how many plants you can fit in the space allocated.
- When you are out and about, ask your child to give you directions to get somewhere using the street directory.
- Have your child check the odometer in the car. After you have been out, ask your child to check it again and work out how far you have travelled.
- Use shopping catalogues to plan the weekly shop. Ask your child to work out how much it will cost, and help them work out how much you will save. Give your child activities to do like working out the best deal. For example, should we buy one item for \$2.99 or three items for \$8.00?
- When you are out for dinner, ask your child to work out how much change you would receive from \$50 when you pay.
- Discuss the different time zones around the world. What day and time is it in China?
- A fun way to help your child with addition is to play card games like 21. You can also try dice games. For example, try rolling dice and adding or multiplying the numbers that come up.
- Help your child with the times tables. You can help by chanting them, singing them, using flashcards, or saying and writing them over and over with your child.
- When your child has TV time, ask them to work out how long the program will run for. Ask questions like *What time will the program finish? Do we have enough time to watch it?*
- Help your child with length by asking them to measure different things around the house.

