

Kindergarten to Year 3: A quick guide to helping your child with maths

Think out loud when you use numbers, time, position and measurement during your everyday tasks so your child can see how useful maths can be.

In the kitchen

- Ask your child to count how many when setting the table, or how much of each ingredient is needed in a recipe.
- Cut food for your child and talk about size, shape, colour and taste.
- When unpacking the shopping ask your child to find and group the heavy, light and tall items. Ask your child to find out if food will fit in a container (e.g. cereal).
- Point out shapes to your child (this clock is a circle or the microwave is a rectangle).

Play time

- When reading books, ask your child questions like *How many people have brown hair? Who was the second person to arrive?*
- Sing rhymes together with the numbers in order, for example *One, two, three, four, five – once I caught a fish alive.*
- Talk about time such as the start time of a favourite TV show or how long to get ready for school.
- Discuss with your child how small things can be heavier than big things depending on what they are made of or what they contain; or a tall thin container may hold less water than a short long one.



Housework

- When you are doing the laundry, ask your child to help you sort the clothes into colours or who they belong to.
- When you are tidying up, ask your child about positions such as *in, on, under, in front and behind.*

Out and about

- In the car, point out house numbers and talk about how there are odd and even numbers. Point out the colours of cars and the number plates. Begin to use the words *left* and *right* when giving directions.
- Count homes on your street or talk about the shapes of street signs (for example, a stop sign is a circle and a give way sign is a triangle).
- When shopping, count items in your trolley with your child. Ask them to help you count the number of cold items you are buying.
- Talk about money, coins and notes when you are out shopping. Let your child give the money and collect the change.

Remember to praise your child. If your child does not know the answers, allow a little time to work it out. Give hints and clues.