

Helping your child with maths in Year 1 and 2

REAL LIFE MATHS

Families come across all manner of everyday maths situations when they are with their children - much more so than teachers who are confined to classrooms. By doing maths in real life, meaningful situations, children are more likely to develop the idea that maths is important, maths has meaning and maths is do-able! Wherever you see maths, talk about it! Below are some ideas that can be used on a Monday morning, a Wednesday tea-time or a Saturday afternoon!

Talking about numbers and shapes that you see in the environment	<i>What number house do we live at? Is it odd or even?</i> <i>What door number is that house? Is it odd or even?</i> <i>What number bus do we need to catch?</i> <i>How many blue cars can you see?</i> <i>How many carriages does this train have?</i> <i>What shapes are these paving stones?</i> <i>What shapes can you see in the railings/ on the house?</i> <i>What patterns can you see in this wrapping paper?</i>
Cooking	<i>How many forks do we need for dinner?</i> <i>How many sausages shall I cook?</i> <i>Can you add two cups of water to the bowl?</i>
Time	<i>It's 7o'clock, time to get up!</i> <i>Let's do this puzzle together for 10 minutes.</i>
Money	<i>Here's 50p to pay the lady with.</i> <i>Take your change from the man.</i>
Measure	<i>Which stick is the longest?</i> <i>Who has the most water?</i>

Maths Games

Playing maths games with children is also a great idea! It develops positive attitudes, mental maths strategies (which are very important), and is a good way of keeping them away from the TV!

The games below are designed to be adapted and varied. Learn the basic rules and then change them up as you want – let the children decide what to do!

How many under the cup?

Set out 6 pasta shapes on the table, and one paper cup. Ask your child to close their eyes and hide 4 pasta shapes under the cup. Ask them to open their eyes and tell you how many pasta shapes are hidden.

This can be played with lots of variations:

- Change the items
- Change the number of cups
- Change the number of items

Collections

Choose a number e.g. 5. Ask your child to make as many collections of 5 as they can from around the house in 10 minutes. They could collect 5 books, 5 forks, 5 socks, 5 toys, 5 pencils....

You can play this game in the park, and choose different numbers too.

How many fingers?

This is a quick game to play whilst waiting for the bus. Show your child 4 fingers.



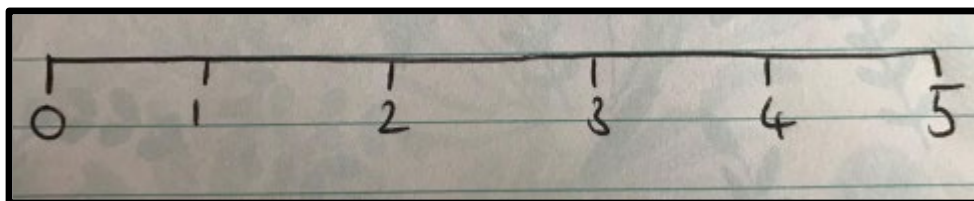
Ask them to show you the same number of fingers, but in a different way. How many different ways can they think of?



Change the number of fingers you show them and play again.

Thinking of a number

Draw a number line for your child.

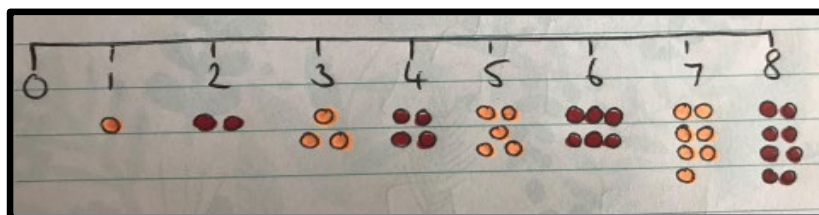


Choose a number on the line but don't tell them it. Give them 2 clues and see if they can guess the number:

"It's bigger than 2"

"It's less than 4"

You could change the size of the number line, and add pictures too if it helps.



Bingo

Draw one 3x3 grid for each player which they fill with numbers up to 20, for example:

11	5	16
9	3	4
1	8	20

The caller calls out any number between 1 and 20. If the player has the 'number bond' to 20, they cross it off their grid.

i.e. If the caller says 14, any player can cross off 6 as $14+6=20$

The first player with 3 in a line calls BINGO!

Playing against brothers, sisters, cousins, aunties, grandmas can be competitive and fun.

This can be played with lots of variations:

- Doubling numbers
- Halving numbers

- Number bonds to 10, 100 etc.
- Throw two dice and add them
- Multiplying by 2, 5, 10 etc.

Pairs

Gather a collection of items that come in pairs, for example, 10 socks. Count the number of socks. Now pair them up and count the number of pairs.

“We have 10 socks. We have 5 pairs of socks.”

How many different items can you do this for? What about knives and forks, shoes, gloves, pictures of: Batman and Robin, bucket and spade, Micky and Minnie Mouse....

Ordering numbers

Place post it notes with a range of different numbers around the house. Children need to go and find all of the post it notes and then put them in order.

Bowling at home

You can make your own skittles using old plastic bottles and filling them with water. You can write different numbers on the front of them. Children could roll/ kick a soft ball to knock them over. They can mentally add the numbers up to see how many points they scored. You could ask questions like, ‘how many more points do you need to get until you have 30 points?’

Other games

These fun maths games help to develop number fluency.

- Snakes and Ladders
- Bus Stop (Orchards toys)
- Darts
- Dominoes
- Pick up sticks

Playing cards

[Click here](#) to find a range of cards games to play with your child.

Guess my number

Provide children with a range of different clues. Can they guess your number?

e.g. It has 2 tens, and the ones are even, what could my number be?

It is more than 7 but less than 10, what could my number be?

Times Tables

By the end of KS1, children are expected to recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables, including recognising odd and even numbers.

It is very useful for children to know times tables fluently. Chanting and singing the tables when you're in the car, bath or park all help! Have a look for times table songs on YouTube.

[Click here](#) for a range of times table cover songs to support your child to learn the times tables.

[Click here](#) for a range of times table dance videos.

It is also helpful to understand the times tables, and not just learn the parrot-fashion. Have you noticed these things?

Times table	Patterns and links
x0	Multiplying a number by 0 gives 0. Zero lots of 2 is zero. Zero lots of 7 is zero.
x1	Multiplying a number by 1 gives the same answer. One lot of 2 is still 2. One lot of 7 is still 7.
x2	The ones digits repeat in this pattern; 2,4,6,8,0 All the numbers are even. Multiplying by 2 is the same as doubling.
x5	All the numbers end in a 5 or a 0. The numbers alternate odd, even, odd, even.
x10	All the numbers end in zero. The tens digit goes up by one each time.

FREE USEFUL LINKS

National Numeracy is a nationwide charity which is dedicated to improving everybody's numeracy skills. They have produced a Families' Toolkit which has lots more great ideas for things to do to help your children. [Click here](#) to go to it; scroll down to the 6-9 year olds section.

The **NRich** website has got absolutely loads of investigations and games that will challenge parents and children alike. [Click here](#) to have a go at some of their games, and [click here](#) to have a go at some of their investigations.



We use **Sumdog** to support children in maths for years 1 – 6. Sumdog is a fantastic website (and APP) that uses motivating games to encourage children to practise their mental maths skills.

It's simple to use Sumdog. Either log in through your browser, or download the app for iPad & iPhone, Android or Kindle. Your child can practise anytime, anywhere! As children play, they answer questions. Sumdog personalises the questions for each one, and tracks their progress through the school curriculum. [Click here](#) to login.



We are also extremely passionate about learning and embedding our times tables. The pupils in years 2 – 6 have their own **TT Rockstars** account and earn coins for their own rockstar by concentrating on different times tables each week and consolidating the ones they learn by revisiting them each half-term. The children can enter the garage, studio, arena or a festival! [Click here](#) to login.



From the innovators who bring you Times Tables Rock Stars, comes a highly engaging platform for learning to add and subtract... **NumBots!**

NumBots is all about every child achieving the “triple win” of understanding, recall and fluency in mental addition and subtraction, so that they move from counting to calculating. [Click here](#) to login.

Number Blocks is a pre school BBC television series aimed at introducing children to early number. Snappy animation and loveable characters combined with engaging storylines to gently introduce concepts of number to support early mathematical understanding. [Click here](#) to access the videos, games and other useful tips.