Maths at Home: Early Years

There are lots of ways that learning can be incorporated into children's everyday life. Here are a few examples:

- ✓ Practise counting at every opportunity! Socks, cars, conkers, sheep in a field, pictures in stories, how many knives, forks, buttons,
- ✓ Don't just count objects.... What about claps, jumps, hops, skips, how many times a dog barks, the microwave beeps etc
- ✓ Count out loud with your child saying the names of numbers clearly, stressing TEEN numbers (especially 13 and 15!)
- ✓ Show and name numbers to your child at all opportunities, including TV remotes and channels, telephones, car number plates, clocks, page numbers, money (coins and notes). Make a game like how many times can we see the number 3 today? When looking at house numbers discuss odd and even
- ✓ Sing songs or rhymes with numbers in them; 10 In The Bed, 5 Little Ducks, 10 Fat Sausages, 5 cheeky monkeys etc.
- ✓ … Ask questions. Eg, How many do you think there are? (estimation) How many are there altogether? What about if one (of the birds/sheep/dogs) flew/ran away? What if another joined?
- ✓ Playing games with cards, dominoes or board games such as snakes and ladders
- ✓ Read stories with numbers in them, e.g. The Very Hungry Caterpillar – count with your child.
- ✓ Use mathematical language; add, take away, find the difference, more, less, fewer etc (see list)
- ✓ Count on (rather than count all) using fingers (put 3 in my head, add 2 using fingers)
- ✓ Encourage children to identify shapes around them; do a circle spotting hunt, square spotting etc.
- ✓ Apply mathematics to real life; shape, money, and shopping, amounts of objects, weighing and measuring etc

eg 10 people are at the party, 2 go home, how many children are left?

- ✓ How many cars/trains/have you got in your toy box? How many wheels are there altogether?
- ✓ Counting in twos – pairs, what kind of things come in pairs? (odd and even)
- ✓ Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. Sweets can be counted into groups of these amounts. There are 5 people in our family, if we have 2 biscuits each how many will we eat altogether?
- ✓ Money can be motivating and real coins are best. Is the biggest worth the most? Order the coins in value not size order. Use 2p, 5p and 10p coins to support times tables.
- ✓ Fractions can be practised by cutting pizza, cake and fruit. ½ ¼
- ✓ Dot to dot puzzle books are good for practising number order – ask them to do it in reverse sometimes so they get used to counting forwards and backwards.
- ✓ Days of the week/months of the year-what day is it today? What day was yesterday? What day is tomorrow? When is your birthday?
- ✓ Telling the time – key points in the day you do things, how many minutes until tea time/bath time/bedtime. Analogue and digital clocks. Nearest 5 minutes for Y2.
- ✓ Measuring and weighing – measuring plants, ordering food items by how heavy they feel. Ordering shoes according to size. Order objects according to weight (which is heavy and light)
- ✓ Sharing objects eg There's 4 apples and 2 of us, how many shall we have each? Or… there's 2 apples and 4 of us, how can we share them?