

Counting Ideas

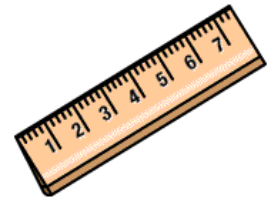


- ❖ Practise chanting the number names.
Encourage your child to join in with you. When they are confident, try starting from different numbers – 4, 5, 6 ...
- ❖ Sing number rhymes together – there are lots of commercial tapes and CD's available.
- ❖ Give your child the opportunity to count a range of interesting objects (coins, pasta shapes, buttons etc). Encourage them to touch and move each objects as they count.
- ❖ Count things you cannot touch or see (more difficult!). Try lights on the ceiling, window panes, jumps, claps or oranges in a bag.
- ❖ Play games that involve counting (e.g snakes and ladders, dice games, games that involve collecting objects).
- ❖ Look for numerals in the environment. You can spot numerals at home, in the street or when out shopping.
- ❖ Cut out numerals from newspapers, magazines or birthday cards. Then help your child to put the numbers in order.

Make mistakes when chanting, counting or ordering numbers. Can your child spot what you have done wrong?

- ❖ Choose a number of the week e.g 5. Practise counting in 5 and on from 5. Count out groups of 5 objects (5 dolls, 5 bricks, 5 pens). See how many places you can spot the numeral 5.

Shapes and Measures



- ❖ Choose a shape of the week e.g: cylinder. Look for this shape in the environment (tins, candles etc). Ask your child to describe the shape to you (2 circular faces, 2 curved edges ...)
- ❖ Play 'guess my shape'. You think of a shape. Your child asks questions to try to identify it but you can only answer 'yes' or 'no' (eg: does it have more than 4 corners? Does it have any curved sides?)
- ❖ Hunt for right angles around your home. Can your child also spot angles bigger or smaller than a right angle?
- ❖ Look for symmetrical objects. Help your child to draw or paint symmetrical pictures/patterns.
- ❖ Make a model using boxes/containers of different shapes and sizes. Ask your child to describe their model.
- ❖ Practise measuring the lengths or heights of objects (in metres and centimetres). Help your child to use different rulers and tape measures correctly. Encourage them to estimate before measuring.
- ❖ Use a TV guide. Ask your child to work out the length of their favourite programmes. Can they calculate how long they spend watching TV each day/each week.
- ❖ Let your child help with cooking at home. Help them to measure ingredients accurately using weighing scales or measuring jugs. Talk about what each division on the scale stands for.
- ❖ Choose some food items out of the cupboard. Try to put the objects in order of weight, by feel alone. Check by looking at the amounts on the packets.
- ❖ Practise telling the time with your child. Use both digital and analogue clocks. Ask your child to be a 'timekeeper' (e.g: tell me when it is half past four because then we are going swimming).
- ❖ Use a stop clock to time how long it takes to do everyday tasks (e.g how long does it take to get dressed?). Encourage your child to estimate first.

Real life problems

- ❖ Go shopping with your child to buy two or three items. Ask them to work out the total amount spent and how much change you will get.
- ❖ Buy some items with a percentage extra free. Help your child to calculate how much of the product is free.
- ❖ Plan an outing during the holidays. Ask your child to think about what time you will need to set off and how much money you will need to take.
- ❖ Use a TV guide. Ask your child to work out the length of their favourite programmes. Can they calculate how long they spend watching TV each day/each week.
- ❖ Use a bus or train timetable. Ask your child to work out how long a journey between two places should take. Go on the journey. Do you arrive earlier or later than expected? How much earlier/how much later?
- ❖ Help your child to scale a recipe up or down to feed the right amount of people.
- ❖ Work together to plan a party or meal on a budget.



These are just a few ideas to give you a starting point. Try to involve your child in as many problem-solving activities as possible. The more 'real' a problem is, the more motivated they will be when trying to solve it.

Useful Websites

Visit these useful websites to help your children to practice their maths skills in a fun and engaging way. These websites include different games and songs to support your child with their maths learning at home.



<http://www.sumdog.com/>



<https://trockstars.com>



<https://www.themathsfactor.com/>



<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>



<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/>