

Maths Top Tips

Number

- **Sing and listen to number songs**
- **Spot numbers in the environment**
Spot house numbers, bus numbers, or numbers on car registration plates.
- **Practice writing numbers 0-10, then 11-20**
Use pencils, pens, chalks, paints, sticks in the mud or ribbons in the air.
- **Practice ordering numbers**
0-10 then 11-20 - order all the numbers then just some of the numbers.
- **Count up to 10, then up to 20 objects**
Ask your child to count physical or drawn objects in everyday situations, e.g. How many apples there are in the fruit bowl or how many sweets they have left,
- **Find 1 more and 1 less than numbers**
Question your children in everyday situations e.g. If I give you one more piece of cucumber how many will you have? When you have eaten one grape how many will you have left?
- **Encourage your children to start using the language involved in addition and subtraction and start solving simple problems.**
More, less, equals, add, plus, subtract, take away, altogether.
There are 6 biscuits on the plate. Let's put 2 more on. How many are there now?
If you take 2 bricks off your tower, how many will there be left?

Shape and Space

- **Spot shapes in the environment**
Go on a shape hunt in the house, garden or on a walk.
- **Talk about the properties of shapes**
Are shapes 2D (flat) or 3D (fat)? How many sides and corners have they got? Are the sides straight or curved? When your child spots a shape they don't recognise discuss a shape it is similar to.
- **Make patterns with shapes**
Make repeating and symmetrical patterns.
- **Get creative with shapes**
Make shape pictures, print with different objects and discuss the shapes that have been created, make a shape collage or cut out shapes.

Measure

➤ **Cook with your children**

Discuss the importance of careful measuring and talk about the different equipment you use to measure.

➤ **Sequence objects according to height**

Which teddy is the tallest? Who is the tallest and shortest member of the family?

➤ **Explore the weight of different objects**

Encourage your child to talk about how heavy or light different objects are. Can they find an object that is big and light or small and heavy?

➤ **Explore capacity**

Play with different containers in the bath. Which holds the most/least?

➤ **Daily routine**

Talk about the order of the day. Point out the days of the week on the calendar or talk about what happens on certain days and when that is. Use language such as today, tomorrow, yesterday, this morning, before, now, next, later, after that.

➤ **Position**

Talk about the position of different objects e.g. the red car is *in front* of the bus, the dog is *behind* the man, the cat is *on top* of the wall, the ball is *under* the trampoline.

There are some fun, interactive games on the Topmarks website. Explore the 3-5 and 5-7 year old section.

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