



Early Maths in Nursery

Maths is important because it helps children to:

- Make sense of the world
- Manage their lives
- Solve problems
- Analyse information
- Assess risk and make decisions

In Nursery we teach Maths using all of the different areas of provision.

Home corner/imaginative

- identifying/using numbers e.g. packaging/labels, phone numbers, recipes
- use money
- write numbers
- matching washing/cutlery, setting the table,
- sharing out
- explore time e.g. calendars, clocks, diaries

Sand & water

- count out quantities
- compare different sized containers
- investigate concepts of full/empty, same/different
- calculate, estimate and predict
- solve practical problems

Arts & Crafts

- count out objects/materials
- use different sized brushes e.g. long/short, thick/thin
- paint pictures using correct numbers e.g. eyes, legs
- symmetry
- make patterns
- making shape pictures/models

Music

- sing songs/counting rhymes
- explore drum beats, copy clapped rhythms

Writing area

- drawing patterns
- explore different writing tools
- sorting materials e.g. pencils, pens

Story Corner

- counting books & stories e.g. The 3 Bears
- page numbers, contents
- story sequences (first, next, then, last)

Construction

- compare size/height/length
- counting numbers of bricks
- explore 2D shapes on the faces of blocks & properties of 3D objects e.g. rolling, sliding, balancing
- drawing pictures of models
- use measuring tapes

ICT

- programmable toys - describe directions, counting
- recording information/numbers
- explore symmetry and pattern using painting/drawing programs

Outdoors

- numbered wheeled toys, number plates and parking bays
- treasure hunts
- maps - directions and positional language
- counting games e.g. skittles
- measuring rainfall
- recording weather
- measuring plants
- collecting, sorting and counting e.g. sticks, stones, leaves
- creating patterns e.g. ribbon, found objects
- water and sand play
- den building - size, measuring, problem solving
- observing changing seasons/ time
- measuring shadows, puddles
- looking for 2D shapes and 3D objects in the environment
- giving each other directions

Maths - How you can help at home

Many of the ideas in 'maths around the nursery' can also be used at home. Here are some ways in which you can help develop your child's mathematical skills and understanding:

- going shopping - counting items, prices, using money
- finding numbers e.g. at the shops, going for a walk, on a journey
- sorting toys, clothes
- matching e.g. pairs of socks
- baking
- using a timer e.g. tooth-brushing, cooking
- talking about daily routines
- setting the table - how many do we need?
- bath time - explore filling and emptying containers, sorting by floating and sinking

It is important that children see others using maths in their daily lives and hear mathematical language. They will then begin to use it too. You can encourage children in their mathematical thinking by asking them questions which encourage them to explain, demonstrate, predict and think for themselves.

For example:

- 'how did you do that?'
- 'what would happen if?'
- 'can you show me how?'
- 'what will happen next?'