

Please scroll down for the new Maths Challenges!

Marvellous Maths!



Maths is everywhere, in everything that we do in our daily lives. The best thing we can do to support young children in their mathematical thinking is practical activities incorporated into their play to make it enjoyable. It will help if they hear you using numbers so they will know that counting is an essential part of everyday life.

Remember to:-

- Point to each object as you count it.
- Take the cue from your child - if s/he is not interested now, don't worry.
- Talk about numbers in context such as 'there are five buttons on your coat, but only four on mine. You've got more buttons than me'.

The best activities that you can do with child to support their Mathematical development at home are:

- Encouraging your child to sort things with you - for example, sorting out your laundry into clothes for different members of the family, or looking at different toy cars and grouping them into sets of size or colour.
- Use mathematical language with your child in everyday situations, such as 'larger', 'smaller', 'bigger than'.
- Encourage your child to guess the size or number of things - even though they may be wildly inaccurate, the aim is to get them to be able to predict and estimate. You could say, 'do we have enough cups out yet?'

- Point out numbers as you see them on front doors, buses and car number plates.
- Play games looking at what is the 'same' and 'different' about similar objects, like teddy bears. This encourages children to observe and it will help them remember letters as well as numbers. It also helps develop their thinking processes.
- Encourage your child to do 'big' and 'small' jumps.

Maths Mastery Home Learning Challenge

Adult Guidance

What Are We Learning?

We are learning to use positional language, such as **behind, in, under, on, above**.

How to Set up the Challenge

- Find a small teddy or other toy, such as a car or doll.
- Let your child hide the toy somewhere in the house.
- Ask questions about the location of the toy, starting with the room the toy is in. For example, 'Is it **in** the kitchen?'
- Once you are in the correct room, narrow the questioning down. For example, 'Is it **behind** the curtains?' or 'Is it **in front of** the TV?'
- Continue until the toy is found.
- Then, hide the toy yourself and let your child ask the questions. Encourage them to use positional language as they ask their questions.



How to Get Your Child Thinking

- Where shall we hide the teddy next?
- The teddy has been behind the curtains. Shall we put him in front of something?
- The teddy is on top of the TV. What else can we put the teddy on top of?
- Is there anything in-between the teddy and the door?
- What is behind the teddy?
- Can you put the teddy above something?
- Talk about the position of objects at other times. For example, when walking to school with your child, ask 'What is behind that tree?' or 'What can you see on top of that roof?' to encourage them to use positional language.
- Help your child to draw a map of familiar places or routes, marking objects and talking about their position.

Hunt the Toy



- Find a small teddy or other toy.
- Hide the toy somewhere in your house. Remember to ask your grown-up first if there are any places you shouldn't put the toy.
- Let your grown-up ask you questions to try and find where the teddy is hidden.
- When they have found the teddy, they can hide it and it is your turn to ask the questions.

Maths: All about the Number Two

Home Learning Challenges

2

Hidden around the page are 2 cats. Can you find and colour them? Can you draw a ball next to each cat? How many balls did you draw altogether?



Ask a grown-up to help you cut some food into halves. Try cutting a small cake in half, right down the middle. How many pieces are there? Try this with some other food too; make 1 cut across the food and then see how many pieces you have. You could try this with an apple, a cookie, a pizza or a baked potato.



Draw a picture of a teddy bear. Draw 2 circles; one for the teddy's head and one for his body. Then, draw 2 eyes, 2 arms, 2 legs and 2 furry ears. Draw 2 buttons on his tummy too!



Can you see the number 2 written on this page? Can you trace over the numbers at the bottom of the page? You could try writing the number 2 on your own.

Teddy would like a new pair of socks. 'Pair' sometimes means a group of 2 things. Can you draw a pair of socks for teddy? How many socks did you draw? Can you use 2 different colours to decorate the socks?



Use some empty packaging to make a model dragon, bird or aeroplane. Make sure your model has 2 wings – one on each side. We would love to see your creations! You could bring them in, or show us a photo or drawing of your model.



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