

Handy guide to maths for parents of children aged 4 years plus



“What I like”

- *Having time to investigate problems and try out new ideas*
- *Helping you with everyday jobs*
- *Using real objects and solving real problems*

“What I can do”

- *See and point out numbers around me*
- *Use my fingers to show a number*
- *Count things out like claps, steps or jumps*
- *Talk about shapes*

“How you can help me”

- Collect everyday items such as bottle tops, buttons, pebbles etc which you child can sort into colours, sizes and count.
- Let your child help with shopping, ask them to get you three bananas or two pints of milk. Talk about heavy and light as they add shopping to the trolley. Allow your child to pay for things in shops or get their own little shop when you are paying with coins.
- Talk about time, such as, “how long does it take to get to the shop?”
- Let your child help at home when you are using numbers for a purpose such as measuring out ingredients, measuring to hang up a picture, counting out money for the window cleaner.
- Play games that involve moving counters forwards and backwards whilst counting such as ‘snakes and ladders’.
- Together look at numbers when out and about on cars, buses, house and anywhere else in the environment.
- Count number of things e.g. how many lampposts, how many red cars.
- Go on a shape hunt and point out all of the shapes you can see such as square windows and round wheels.
- Play card games where you match things such as ‘snap’ or ‘pairs’.
- Use estimates in everyday activities, such as, “how many cakes will we need if Gran and Grandad come for tea?”.
- Hide objects and use clues to help your child find them, such as “it’s on top of the..., it’s next to the... it’s under the...”

Remember every day brings opportunities!