

## Handy guide to maths for parents of children aged 2-3 years



### “What I like”

- *To play with lots of interesting objects so that I can explore their weight, size and shape.*
- *Playing with blankets and boxes that I can hide in or under.*
- *To hear you talk about simple shapes, patterns and sizes so that I learn how to recognise and use words myself.*

### “What I can do”

- *Give you one or two objects when you ask me too.*
- *Recognise that things are different shapes and sizes.*
- *Say some number names in the right order.*

### “How you can help me”

- Make the most of dressing, bedtime, shopping and other everyday activities to count stairs, buttons, cups – anything that can be counted. Talk about lots, one more, one less and how many.
- Sing lots of counting rhymes and songs such as ‘Five Little Ducks’, and act it out using your fingers or real objects that your child can touch.
- Help your child sort coins into piles by shape or size, big and little or you could provide bowls, purses or jars for them to sort these into.
- Play games such as hide and seek and talk about where you found them, in, on or under?
- Provide different size containers for your children to fill and empty at bath time, plastic cups, empty shampoo bottles, plastic tea set.
- Point out numbers, shapes and patterns when you are out and about. Talk to your child about things being pointy, round, having corners or being the same or different.
- Play throwing games outdoors and give your child objects that are different weights to throw. Talk about how heavy or light they are and how far or high they can throw them.

**Remember every day brings opportunities!**