



## Parents and Carers Information Sheet 3: Maths

### Why is maths important?

- It's everywhere - shapes, sizes, patterns, numbers are all around us.
- It's vital for problem solving.
- It helps us to think logically and critically.
- Being confident to count can establish a good start in maths.
- Children apply mathematical understanding to help them with their daily play and activities such as balancing and fitting blocks together as well as in role play activities.
- Maths is needed in everyday situations such as telling the time in order to arrive at school or nursery on time.

### How can you support your child's mathematical understanding?

- Talk about the everyday maths you are using. E.g. counting the number of plates for meal times or sharing food.
- Make repeating patterns together.
- Count sets of everyday objects or actions together as this will move children on from counting by rote.
- Let your child see you counting as this will help with ordering numbers.
- Use maths vocabulary such as 'first', 'next', 'last' and words associated with size.
- Sing counting songs and rhymes; hold up the correct number of fingers or use toys to correspond with the numbers in the songs.
- Involve your child in solving problems. (e.g. "I wonder how many cups of water will be in this full jug.")
- Model using positional language such as 'on', 'under', 'next to', 'behind', 'in front'.
- Encourage and support practical activities such as construction activities with a wide range of shapes and objects.
- Let your child explore and talk about the numbers on a calculator or phone or that they see out and about.

### Follow your child's lead.

Your child will develop in their own way and at their own pace.

"The only way to learn about mathematics is to do mathematics."

Paul Halmos

### Ideas to try at home:

#### Cook together

There are lots of maths opportunities - counting spoons weighing, spotting numbers.

#### Play dominoes

Children will begin to recognise the number of spots without counting. This is called **subitising**.

#### Play board games

How many spots on the dice, counting spaces as they move etc.

#### Bath time maths

Talk about capacity and size when filling plastic cups. Discover which holds more water.

#### Sorting and organising

Get your child to help sort everyday items e.g. tinned food, old clothes. Count them after sorting.

#### Make pictures out of everyday objects. E.g.

recyclable materials, mats, cloths, natural materials.

### Ideas to try at out and about:

#### Play Shape 'I spy'.

Focus on objects nearby - can your child spot the

#### Go on a number walk.

Look for numbers on vehicles, signs, front doors and road signs as you go on a walk.

#### Compare the length and weight of things.

You could try leaves, sticks, stones or logs.

#### Use natural objects to make marks.

Use sticks in mud, gravel, snow or sand.

#### Collect natural objects

When you get home sort and count the objects collected.

#### Make an obstacle course

Use positional language when talking about how your child will use the course.

### Please supervise your child during their play.

Remember small objects can be choking hazards. Ensure that hands are thoroughly washed after playing outside and with messy resources inside.