

NCCA Primary Mathematics Toolkit – Support material

Everyday ways to support your child with Maths - Information for parents

Your child has been experiencing and learning mathematical ideas since they were born. Mathematics is everywhere, and is for everyone all children are mathematical! Mathematics is an important tool that helps us to make sense of our world, and children can be supported to engage and to be playful with the mathematical concepts and ideas that exist in their homes, educational settings, and in the wider world.

Here are some tips on how you can incorporate mathematical learning into your child's everyday activities:

Talk to your

child about organising.

e.g., putting jigsaws in

one box, and teddy bears in

another, putting the items

used most often in an

easy-to-reach place.

Practice

counting through

games such as

Hopscotch, Snakes

and Ladders.

etc.

Encourage vour child to build structures using building blocks, playdough, Lego, etc.

Draw vour child's attention to their use of shapes in art, and encourage them to make shapes using paper, sand, etc.

Look at and talk about shopping receipts and coupons with your child and discuss prices, savings, special offers, etc.

Give your child opportunities to use money/vouchers/ coupons in shops, restaurants, etc.

Play board games such as Monopoly, Scrabble, Connect 4. Chess, etc.

Encourage your child to help with tidving and organising toys, books, etc.

> Play games such as Ring-a-Rosie and Simon Says. Talk about movement in these games, e.g., skipping around the circle, moving forwards/ backwards, stepping to the left/right.

Encourage your child to learn or follow dance routines. e.g., the Cha Cha Slide, the Hokey Pokey, or to create their own.

Listen to and sav number and counting rhymes, e.g., Five Little

Monkeys or One. Two.

Buckle My Shoe.

poems or Talk to your stories.

child about shapes they see. Discuss their size, the number of sides they have, if they can roll, etc. Try playing 'I Spy' with shapes.

When listening to music, talk about the rhyming patterns in lyrics.

Encourage your child to make up their own number rhymes.

> Make jigsaw puzzles with your child.

When reading with your child, draw his/her attention to maths ideas in the book. e.g., shapes, time, movement and journeys of characters.

Talk to your child about the many ways we use numbers, e.g., phone numbers, numbers on sports jerseys, ordering steps of a recipe by number.

Talk about the days of the week and the months/seasons of the year. Discuss what happened yesterday, or what will happen tomorrow/the day after tomorrow.

Explore and play

with containers of

different shapes and

sizes. Talk about what

holds more/less, what is

empty/full, etc.

Encourage your child to use a weekly/monthly planner or diary.

> your child to use scales, measuring cups and jugs, etc. to accurately measure ingredients.

> > Include your child in cooking/baking activities and talk about the quantities of ingredients, the steps in the recipe, the time taken, and so on.

Talk about daily schedules with your child, e.g., lunch time is at 1 o'clock, bed time is at 7 o'clock, etc. Point out these times on digital/ analogue clocks.

Talk about patterns that you can see, such as animal patterns, patterns on clothing, etc. Make patterns using buttons, beads, etc.

> Involve vour child in gift-wrapping.

Adjust recipes based on the number of servings needed.

Practice sharing items, such as food and toys, equally.

Encourage your

child to help with

sorting and organising

clothes, e.g., pairing

socks, putting clothes in

the correct place in

the wardrobe.

Involve your child when clearing out clothing, toys, books, etc. Categorise items, e.g., 'keep', 'donate', 'recycle'.

Support your child to organise clothes seasonally, and to sort clothes before washing, e.g., organising by whites and colours. following laundry care labels.

> Engage in pretend play with your child, e.g., playing post office. restaurant, shop.

Go on a walk and look for shapes and patterns in nature.

Talk to your child about measures that

are relevant to them,

e.g., their height,

shoe size, etc.

Encourage vour child to use maps (physical or digital) to plan routes efficiently. For long journeys, talk about the towns/counties that you will travel through, landmarks you might pass, etc.

Draw your child's attention to speed limits, car speedometers, etc. Discuss how long a journey might take if driving at 80kph/100kph, etc.

When going on a walk or drive, talk about the route you will take.

Look at and talk about road signs. Ask questions such as: What shape is the sign? What does the number/symbol on the sign mean? Which town is the furthest away?

Mark and count down to special occasions on a calendar.

> Involve your child in shopping trips. Encourage them to think about what is in the cupboard/fridge, and what needs to be added to the shopping list.

Talk to your child about promotions and special offers. Ask questions such as: Is it better value to share a large popcorn, or to buy two small popcorns?