

Supporting Mathematics Learning at Home: Younger Children

Text Messages

Maths can be a part of your everyday activities through games, stories and conversation! You don't need to have a separate maths lesson or activity. Why not count the plates as you lay the table or do a fun addition quiz?

Board games like Snakes and Ladders or other games with numbered spaces can be great for maths learning. You can even make your own!

Meals and snack times can be great to teach lots of concepts, like sharing, talking about time, counting how many carrots you have, estimating the number of beans or comparing sizes of potatoes.

Use maths words in conversation and play, talking about size ("Which is bigger?"), order ("Which is first?"), shapes and more.

Stories can be great opportunities for maths learning. Check out <https://www.mathsthroughstories.org/recommendations.html> or you can use books you have at home!

Use manipulatives like bricks or toys of different sizes or amounts to support learning. Measuring, building, puzzles, sorting and patterns can be great!

When you see your child practising maths in everyday tasks, praise them! "I love to see you counting / ordering / sharing."

Email: Easy tips for helping your child with maths

Dear XX,

We know maths can feel like a difficult subject to cover at home. The good news is that you don't need to set aside a separate maths lesson or activity. Your child can learn maths during normal, everyday activities! Here are a few tips for how you can support maths learning every day:

- **Board games** like Snakes and Ladders or other games with numbered spaces can be great for maths learning. You can even make your own!
- **Meals and snack times** can be great to teach lots of concepts, like sharing, talking about time, counting how many carrots you have, estimating the number of beans or comparing sizes of potatoes.

Communicating with Families

- Use **maths words in conversation and play**. This can include talking about size ("*Which is bigger?*"), order ("*Which is first?*"), shapes and more.
- **Stories can be great opportunities for maths learning**. One great free resource for maths stories is <https://www.mathsthroughstories.org/recommendations.html> but you can use other books too!
- Use **manipulatives** like bricks or toys of different sizes or amounts. Measuring items, scales, construction materials, puzzles, sorting and pattern materials are also great sources for discussion!

Check out these other resources from the EEF for more helpful tips.

Supporting Mathematics Learning at Home: Older Children

Text Messages

We want to support families with some tips for promoting maths learning at home. One great strategy is to create a daily routine with time for different tasks, such as practicing times tables or completing an online lesson.

Encouraging your child to set goals and make plans can help them learn independently. Older children can be more independent but will still need some support.

Having a set time and place to study with the resources they will need can help keep children on task and make sure they have the tools for success.

Practicing times tables, either online or on paper, can be a great tool to help your child remember maths facts quickly and easily!

It can be hard to learn new maths concepts outside of school. Create time for your child to practice what they already know, such as repeating known times tables.

Providing example maths problems can be helpful for your child. These should show all steps clearly and have a very similar follow-up problem for them to try.

Email: Easy tips for helping your child with maths

Dear XX,

We know maths can feel like a difficult subject to cover at home. That is why we want to help with some tips for supporting your child's maths learning while schools are closed:

- Encouraging your child to **set goals** and **make plans** can help them learn independently. Older children can be more independent but will still need some support.
- Having **a set time and place to study with the resources they will need** can help keep children on task and make sure they have the tools for success.
- **Practicing times tables**, either online or on paper, can be a great tool to help your child remember maths facts quickly and easily!
- It can be hard to learn new maths concepts outside of school. Create time for your child to **practice what they already know**.
- **Providing example problems of maths concepts** can be helpful for your child. These should show all steps clearly and have a very similar follow-up problem for them to try.

Find out more tips and resources from the EEF.