

### Maths Outdoors

Look for numbers as you are walking down the street. You could see how many of a particular number you can spy; or look for numbers in order—first 1, then 2 etc.

- Give your child a small bag in which to collect a given number of interesting things. E.g. a feather, shiny stone, leaf, twig etc.
- Play 'I spy' using descriptions instead of an initial letter, for example, 'I spy with my little eye something that is small and very smooth.'
- Compare two shopping bags to see which is the heaviest.
- Play shape detectives when walking down the street e.g. how many square windows can you see.? Etc.

### Number Fun

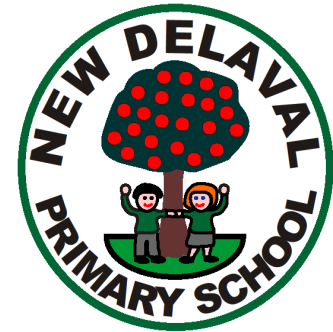
These activities help children learn about numbers;

- Playing with a calculator
- Using their own footprints cut out from newspaper to make a trail to the front door etc.
- Counting fingers, toes, eyes, socks and shoes
- Making a birthday card for a friend and writing the number on the cake
- Cutting out numbers from magazines and catalogues and looking for page numbers in books
- Playing games such as Snap,
- Using a dice to play board games, such as snakes and ladders

### Shape, Space & Measures

These activities will help your child to learn about shapes and measures

- Using empty boxes and packets to build a castle
- Wrapping up pretend presents and sometimes real ones to.
- Filling up small boxes with objects
- Playing making shapes with a light from a torch.
- Lining up small cars or plastic figures across a table.
- Dropping small stones in a plastic water jug to see the water rise
- Helping to read a recipe and weigh out ingredients
- Let your child compare the weight of an empty shopping bag with a full one - which is heavier/ lighter?
- Let your child feel and compare the weight of everyday items such as a bag of flour, tin of beans and use words such as heavy, light, heavier than , lighter than etc.
- Daily routines are a good way of introducing the concept of time. Talking through the day is an easy way to use the vocabulary of time. E.g. what shall we do today / tonight, this evening etc.



## Helping your child with Maths

***MATHS IS EVERYWHERE and learning about it doesn't just happen at school. We all use maths everyday, everywhere!***

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Young children have lots of important mathematical experiences everyday and there are lots of ways to help them develop these mathematical skills. The development of mathematical skills depends on children becoming *confident* and *competent* in learning and using key skills.

They need help to understand what maths is used for and you can do this by talking about maths you use in your day-to-day routine. Show children how numbers, size and pattern are important in your life by doing things like:

- Checking with them the bus number as it arrives
- Pointing out the numbers on the clock
- Finding the channel on the TV remote control together.
- Talking about how things fit and tidying away in boxes.

Children may not understand all the maths you use but they can get to know about maths words and numbers.

### ***How do children learn maths?***

All parents and carers know that singing songs and playing at finger rhymes and games quickly grabs children's interest. The repetition in these rhymes means that even the youngest of children soon pick up the words and will join in the chorus.

When children start school the games they play become more complicated, involving rules, dice and cards. And while playing these games—whether Snakes and Ladders, Snap or Happy Families—children are learning valuable maths skills such as adding up and reading numbers.

By the time a child reaches school age they slowly start to understand more about numbers, shapes and measurement. They may be able to say number names up to 20, but only be able to count a small number of objects. Children need plenty of practical experiences to link what they can see, hear, and feel with the idea of using number. This is when children start to:

- Say 1,2,3,4... up to 20
- Count up to 10 objects
- Recognise the written numbers 0,1,2,3... up to 9
- Use words to compare things, such as more/less, greater/smaller etc.
- Make simple patterns and talk about them.
- Name shapes such as circle, square, triangle
- Use words to describe where things are, such as under, over, next to, beside etc...

### ***Helping children learn their maths skills.***

Here are lots of ideas for encouraging children to learn more about maths.

#### **• Stories**

Lots of stories are ideal for talking about numbers and size. For example, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, The Three Little Pigs, Goldilocks & the Three Bears, Mr Wolf's Week, What's the Time Mr Wolf?, Elmer etc.

#### **• Number Rhymes**

Number rhymes are an ideal way to involve children in counting. Singing number rhymes such as 5 fat sausages, 5 currant buns, 5 little ducks, 10 green bottles etc are a fun way to encourage children to count that can be done at any time of the day.

#### **Maths around the home**

- Talk about the which order you get dressed in, and which item you put on first, next and last.
- Match pairs of things, shoes, socks etc.
- In the bath use plastic tubs and ducks or small toys. Count how many toys will make the boat sink. Drop some coins into the bath and see how many your child can find.