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NUMBERS: LEARNING AT HOME

MAKING SENSE OF MATHS

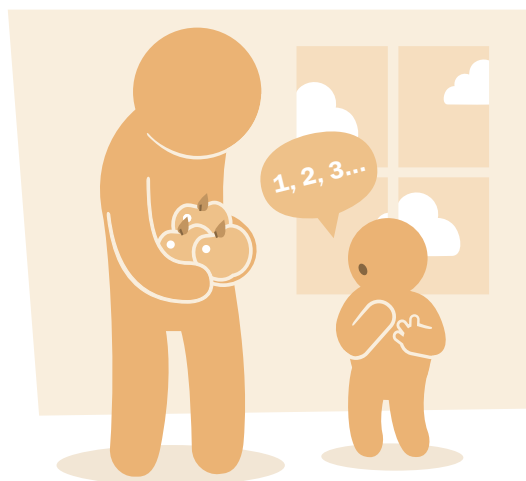
Here are some ideas to help you bring maths to life for your child:

- Think out loud when you use numbers, time, position and measurement so your child sees how useful maths can be. For example: *I wonder if we have enough apples?* and *Let's count to make sure.*
- Encourage your child to talk through what they are doing. Ask questions and let your child ask questions too. This helps them make sense of things and helps them understand what they are doing. It is an effective way to learn.
- Use maths and number words when you describe things. Instead of saying: *The bucket*, you might say: *The 10 litre bucket*. This helps your child learn about the different words that are used to describe how to measure things.

Turn off the television. It's easier for your child to concentrate when there are no distractions.

Follow the golden rule of 'little and often' – a few minutes each day learning about numbers is better than a 30 minute maths session.

- Ask your child questions while you are doing everyday activities so they begin to think and talk about maths from an early age. Ask questions such as: *How many are there? Which way is it? Will it fit in there? Is there enough for all of us?* and *How big is it?*
- Get your child to help sort items at home according to size, length, colour and shape, for example buttons, socks, pegs and blocks.
- Praise your child for trying, even if they give the wrong answer. If they don't know the answer, give them time to work it out. If you do give them the answer, talk about how you worked it out. This builds their confidence in learning. Give them time to think and time to answer your questions. Be patient.



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