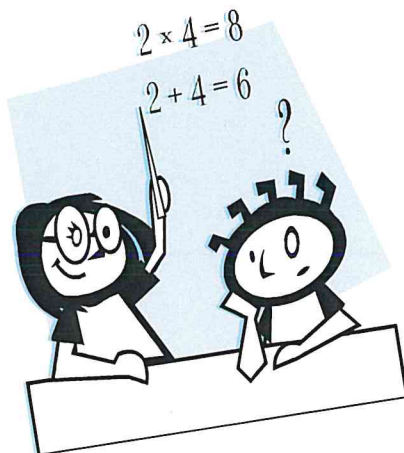




Our Top Tips to help your child in Maths!

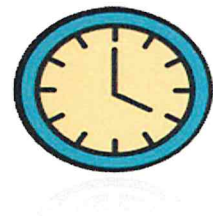




'They do it differently nowadays!'

If only we had a pound for every time someone said that to us! Yes, we probably do teach your child in a different way to the way you were taught, but there are lots of ways that you can still help them to become more confident in Maths. Here are some ideas to help you.

1. Put up a clock in the kitchen.



Ask questions eg:

If we leave the house at 8:30 and it takes 15 minutes to walk to school, what time will we arrive?

Coronation Street starts at 7:30 and lasts half an hour. At what time will it finish?

2. Play board/card games.

'Double Snakes and Ladders'

Whatever the children throw on the dice, get them to double it. (It gets the game over much quicker!)





3. Battleships'

This is a great game for practising coordinates. Use squared paper and place a battleship (4 squares), 2 destroyers (3 squares each), 3 submarines (2 squares each) and 4 tugs (1 square each) on a 10x10 grid without showing your child. They also need to do the same on a separate grid without showing you. Then take it in turns to give a coordinate (eg: 4,3. This means 4 squares across and 3 up). If you hit one of the ships they need to say 'hit' and if not they need to say 'miss'. You then have to discover whether you have hit part of a ship or a whole ship by testing the squares near the one you have hit. The game ends when all of the ships have been destroyed.

4. Darts'

Put a dart board up in the garage. Great for addition and subtraction practice. (Also you might discover the next Scott Waites!!)



5. Dominoes

Playing dominoes is great for addition, looking for patterns and making predictions.



6. Card Games.

All card games help the children to calculate, but particularly games like Pontoon, Canasta and Crib. Card games can also help the children to predict outcomes. Most card games can be found on the Internet if you need to find out how to play.



7. Using Scales



Baking is a simple way of helping children to read scales. (It is also a good way of teaching them how to clear up afterwards!) Also ask the children to predict how much something weighs before weighing it. This is a really useful skill.

8. Sweets.

Sweets provide so many opportunities for Maths work. How many times have you heard 'that's not fair' when you share some sweets out? You can use sweets to count, share out equally, create bar charts using different colours etc.



9. Shopping.

Shopping can be stressful with children in tow but it can be made fun also. Children can be encouraged to work out the prices, calculate change, calculate numbers of items needed, or just count steps around the shop. Older children can be asked to work out 10% of prices or 50% discount. They can also be encouraged to decide whether the 'offers' are really as good as they appear!



10. Thermometers

A thermometer displayed can give opportunities to look at negative numbers and what they mean.



11. Your street

Just walking along the street gives lots of opportunities. Odd and even numbers can be counted and patterns looked at. Children can be encouraged to predict what number comes next in a sequence. Play 'I-Spy' with shapes that you can see. Count houses as you walk along. Count cars as they pass.



12. Measuring

Use a tape measure to measure the length of objects. Ask the children to predict how long something might be before measuring - use centimetres and millimetres. Talk about distances when travelling in a car - use miles and kilometres.



13. Counting

Counting can be done anywhere! As you are going upstairs, downstairs, forwards, backwards and while you are waiting for your child to do something. In this case you can also introduce fractions eg: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9, 9 and a quarter, 9 and a half, 9 and three quarters, 9 and 8/10 etc. This introduces the idea of fractions.



14. Pizzas/Cakes

Pizzas and cakes are useful for introducing fractions and also the idea of 'equal'.



15. Times Tables



By the end of Year 4, children should have instant recall of their times tables so any thing you can do to help them practise will benefit them. There is an App for the I-phone called Percy Parker, which helps children to learn their tables through a 'rock star character' who has a different song for each table. Times tables can be practised anywhere and at any time!

Wise words!

- Praise effort even if your child gets it wrong. (Just because they can't do it straight away does not mean that they won't ever be able to do it!)
- Please don't tell your child that you were hopeless at Maths!
- If your child gives a wrong answer, ask them to explain what they did and hopefully they will be able to spot their mistake. Also ask them to explain how they got an answer when they get it right so they don't associate explanation with failure.
- Talk to your child about how often you use Maths in your everyday life.

